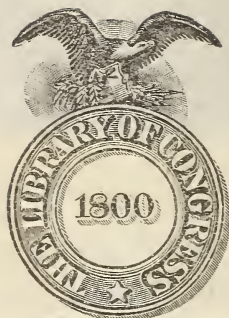


DAILY PRAISE



And
PRAYER



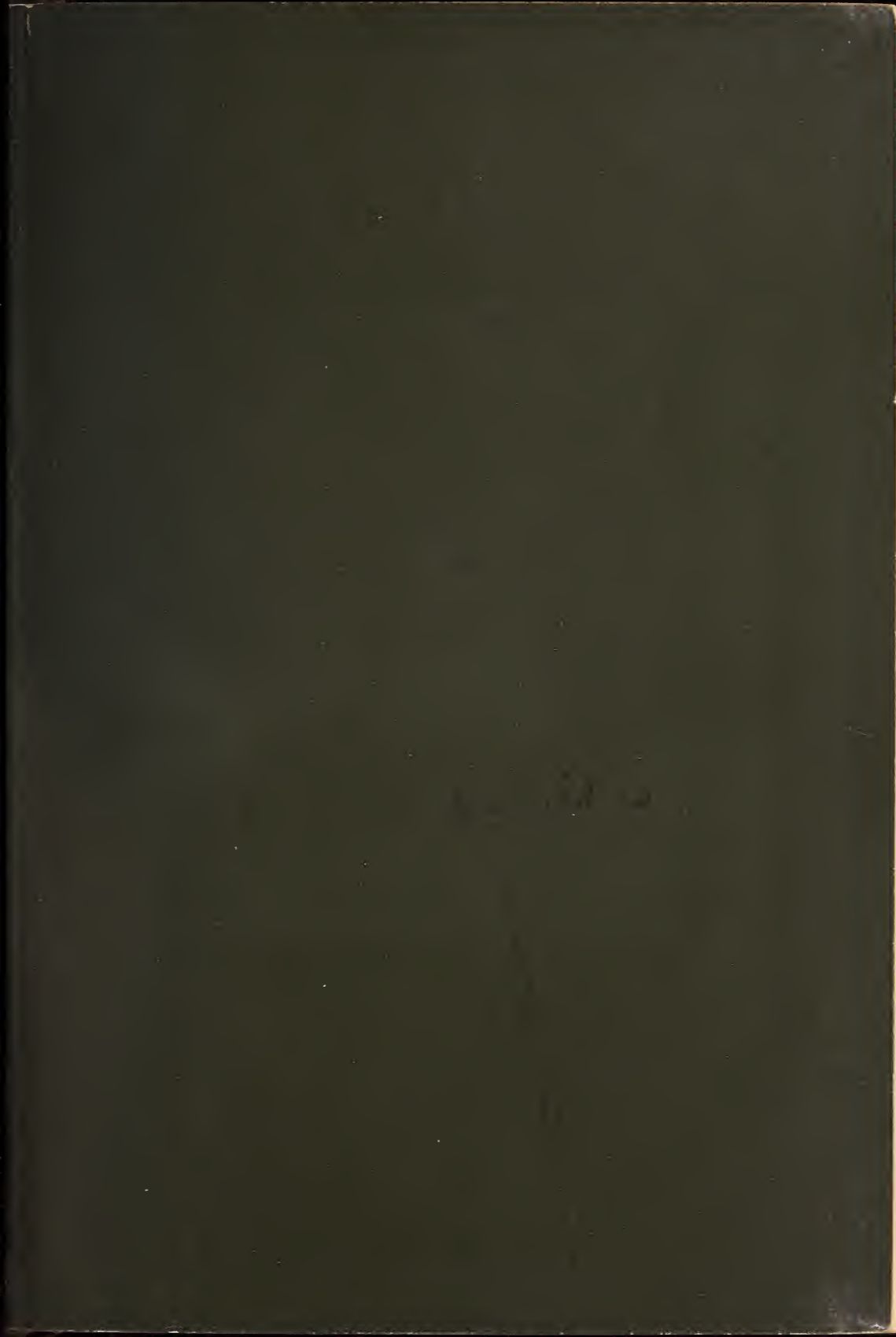
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DAILY PRAISE AND PRAYER.

by
Russell Rhodes Shipman.

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1884

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PREFACE.

IN these brief services of devotion, the purpose has been, not to restrict each page to a single topic, but so far as possible, while preserving harmony, to give to every day some expression of the soul's varied experience and need.

The introductory sentences are from the Bible. The poetical selections have been gathered from all accessible sources, having less regard for novelty than for the choicest utterance of faith and piety. While the new may charm by freshness, the old grows richer by tender and precious association. For the prayers, these pages are indebted largely to ancient liturgies, reproduced in many modern service-books ; also, to many of the living and the dead, whose names are not given, since the material they furnish has sometimes been altered, or condensed to adapt it to the required brevity and simplicity. To the Hymn Book and Service Book prepared by Rev. James Martineau, acknowledgments are especially due. The stanzas taken from Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, and Holmes are used by permission of James R. Osgood & Co., from their copyright editions.

The spirit shrinks from too weighty an encumbrance of letter and form ; and the neglect of daily prayer in the home is doubtless partly due to the formalism with which it has been burdened. The trellis is not the vine ; much less is it the fruit. Yet the trellis has its value if it serves to lift the vine from the earth into the fresh air and gracious sunlight that shall quicken it to bear more ample and luscious fruit. With its slight framework of ritual, may this book of "Praise and Prayer" help our souls to rise "Daily" into the celestial atmosphere, where the Holy Spirit shall inspire that life more abundantly, the best expression of which is found in richer, sweeter fruits of daily living.

R. R. S.

THE LORD is my shepherd: I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

FROM all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,
Eternal truth attends thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

OUR Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Nothing less than the majesty of God, and the powers of the world to come, can maintain the peace and sanctity of our homes, the order and serenity of our minds, the spirit of patience and tender mercy in our hearts. Then only shall we wisely economize moments when we anticipate for ourselves an eternity; and lose no grain of wisdom, when we discern the glorious and immortal structure its successive accumulations shall raise. Then will even the merest drudgery of duty cease to humble us, when we transfigure it by the glory of our own spirit. Seek ye, then, the things that are above, where your life is hid with Christ in God.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

*To prayer, to prayer ! for the morning breaks,
And earth in her Maker's smile awakes ;
His light is on all below and above,
The light of gladness, and life, and love ;
Oh, then, on the breath of this early air,
Send upward the incense of grateful prayer.*

*Awake, awake ! and gird up thy strength,
To join God's holy band at length ;
To Him who unceasing love displays,
Whom the powers of nature unceasingly praise,
To Him thy heart and thy hours be given ;
For a life of prayer is the life of heaven.*

HENRY WARE, JR.

JANUARY 1.

SPEAK unto the children of Israel that they go forward.

Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify.

I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

BREAK, new born year, on glad eyes break !

Melodious voices move ;

On, rolling time ! thou canst not make

The Father cease to love.

Lord, from this year more service win,

More glory, more delight !

O make its hours less sad with sin,

Its days with thee more bright.

Then we may bless its precious things,

If earthly cheer should come ;

Or gladsome mount on angel wings,

If thou shouldst take us home.

O golden then the hours must be,

The year must needs be sweet ;

Yes, Lord, with happy melody

Thine opening grace we greet.

WE bow ourselves before thee, O thou God of our lives, and seek thy blessing. May the coming year prove a new year indeed, bringing new thoughts and better resolutions. Happy, thrice happy, will it be for us if it lead us into a new and divine life. Should it bring trial and sorrow, and take from us health and friends, still happy will it be, if, through thy grace, we are enabled to use it well. O let not this year be marked by broken vows, by a sinful surrender of our souls to the tyranny of wicked passions, by indolence, and deadness of heart. But may it prove for ever memorable as a year rich in generous purposes and Christian deeds. By the divine power of a true spirit may we convert all the changes of life into opportunities of grace ; and so may we be raised above the power of time, and breathe the air of an eternal world, even while we sojourn in this vale of shadows. Amen.

JANUARY 2.

THE Lord bless thee, and keep thee; the Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Be strong, and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

OUR Father, through the coming year
We know not what shall be;
But we would leave without a fear
Its ordering all to thee.
It may be we shall toil in vain
For what the world holds fair,
And all its good, we thought to gain,
Deceive, and prove but care.

It may be it shall bring us days
And nights of lingering pain,
And bid us take our farewell gaze
Of these loved haunts of men.
But calmly, Lord, on thee we rest;
No fears our trust shall move:
Thou knowest what for each is best,
And thou art perfect love.

ALMIGHTY Father, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of thy laws and in the works of thy commandments, that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul. O God, our hearts as well as our times are in thy hands: help us, we beseech thee, with this new year to form new resolutions of serving thee faithfully in the spirit of thy Son Jesus Christ; that we may finish the work which thou hast given us to do, and that our earthly life may be the beginning of a blessed eternity. Amen.

JANUARY 3.

BLESSED are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Oh! timely happy, timely wise,
Hearts that with rising morn arise!
Eyes that the beam celestial view,
Which evermore makes all things new!

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but, above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY 4.

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

STERN daughter of the voice of God!
O Duty! If that name thou love,
Who art a light to guide, a rod
To check the erring, and reprove:

. I myself commend
Unto thy guidance from this hour;
Oh! let my weakness have an end!
Give unto me, made lowly wise,
The spirit of self-sacrifice;
The confidence of reason give;
And, in the light of Truth, thy bondman let me live!

O GOD, who in times past didst speak to our fathers by the prophets, and in these last days to us by thy Son, we thank thee for the volume of thy Holy Word; for the plain and ample directions it contains; for the sublime instructions it affords; for the consolations and hopes it presents to the penitent, the afflicted, and the dying; for the immortal life it reveals to man; for the eternal glory and happiness it promises to those who love and strive to obey thee. By the light and assistance which it gives to our ignorance and frailty, may we be enabled to order our steps aright, to keep thy laws and ordinances, and steadily to pursue that path of virtue and true holiness which leads to everlasting life. Amen.

JANUARY 5.

BLESSED be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

The Lord is my strength and my shield ; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped : therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth ; and with my song will I praise him.

The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance : feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

FATHER, source of every blessing,
Tune my heart to grateful lays ;
Streams of mercy, never-ceasing,
Call for ceaseless songs of praise.

By thy hand restored, defended,
Safe thus far through life I've come ;
Safe, O Lord, when life is ended,
Bring me to my heavenly home.

O LORD, merciful and gracious, we, thy dependent offspring, would now humbly and sincerely thank thee, because thou hast given us life, and by thy bountiful providence hast always nourished, directed, and governed us. For our reason, education, and religion ; for all the gifts of nature and of grace ; for our Saviour, Christ ; for our redemption, and instruction in the truth ; for thy repeated calls to us ; for all the patience which has waited for us, and all the mercy which has spared us ; for all the enjoyments of this present life, and for all thy promises, and all our hopes of a better life to come, — we bless and magnify thy holy name. And grant, O Lord, that thy mercies may be followed by our obedience ; and that we may so walk in the light of thy favor, and in the paths of thy commandments, that, living here to thy praise, we may at last be received to thyself, to rejoice for ever in thy presence ; which we ask in the name, and as disciples, of him who died that we might live ; through whom to thee be ascribed all thanksgiving and praise, both now and for ever. Amen.

JANUARY 6.

MY voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord ; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness : neither shall evil dwell with thee.

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy : and in thy fear will I worship.

Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness ; make thy way straight before my face.

Let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice : let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them : let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous ; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

ON God, and not on my poor strength,
Will I my hopes repose,
And trust the Power who made me first,
And all my weakness knows.
He who the world guides on its way
Will help me bear my burdened day.

God knows whate'er my heart desires
Before it is expressed,
And grants the boon unuttered still
If wisdom sees it best.
And as a father loves his son ;
Then, " not my will, but thine be done."

THOU, O Lord most High, art our light and our life, our strength and our joy, our refuge in distress, our ever-present Friend and Helper. Inspire us, we beseech thee, with thoughts suited to thy most holy presence. As disciples of Jesus Christ thy Son, and with great love to him, we would come to thee : may it be also in his spirit. We would be mindful how far off from thee we should have been without him, and how near to thee he will lead us, if we humbly and steadfastly yield ourselves up to his guidance. Thou, Lord, hast made all things, and art wonderful in all thy doings ; yet art thou most wonderful and glorious in thy works of love and mercy. Amen.

JANUARY 7.

WHOSOEVER heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

FATHER! strengthen thou my will,
With thy steadfast purpose fill;
Rooted, grounded may I be,
Fixed in thy stability.

Henceforth may I nobly stand;
Build no longer on the sand;
But defy temptation's shock,
Firmly grounded on the rock.

O GOD, how great, how mighty art thou! As we think of the universe filled and guided by thee, we are overwhelmed by a sense of our own feebleness and of thy measureless power. All earthly and human greatness is weaker than the spider's web when set against thy will. Oh, save us from a presumptuous heart. Make us poor in spirit. We cast ourselves down. Wilt thou lift us up? With meek and lowly hearts we implore thy favor. Oh, shed down on us thy light, that we may be wisely instructed as to the sources of true and enduring power. May we build our house on the rock of thy righteous law, that in the storm and tempest it may still stand and be safe. Wilt thou establish the work of our hands? yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Amen.

JANUARY 8.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth ! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained ;

What is man, that thou art mindful of him ? and the son of man, that thou visitest him ?

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.

Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands ; thou hast put all things under his feet :

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth !

A MARVEL seems the universe,
A miracle our life and death ;
A mystery, which I cannot pierce,
Around, above, beneath.
In vain I task my aching brain,
In vain the sage's thought I scan ;
I only feel how weak and vain,
How poor and blind, is man !

And now my spirit sighs for home,
And longs for light whereby to see,
And, like a weary child, would come,
O Father, unto thee !
Though oft, like letters traced on sand,
My weak resolves have passed away,
In mercy, lend thy helping hand
Unto my prayer to-day.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us, we beseech thee, the increase of faith, hope, and charity ; and may we not only obtain that which thou dost promise, but also love that which thou dost command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon the people ; that, being enlightened by thy most holy word, we may so walk in the light of thy truth, that we may at length attain to everlasting life. Amen.

JANUARY 9.

AND when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

He prayeth well, who loveth well
Both bird and man and beast.

He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

GREAT art thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised. Great is thy power, and thy wisdom infinite. Thee would man praise: man, who is but a speck in thy creation; man, who bears with him his mortality, the witness of his sin. Thou makest us to delight in thy praise; for thou hast made us for thyself, and our heart is without rest till it find rest in thee. We will seek thee, O Lord, by calling upon thee; and call upon thee, believing in thee. Oh that we might repose upon thee! Oh that thou wouldst enter into our heart, that we may forget our sorrows, and embrace thee, our only good. So speak that we may hear. Enlarge thou our souls, that thou mayest enter in. Cleanse us from secret faults; keep back also thy servants from presumptuous sins. Amen.

JANUARY 10.

THY mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens ; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Thy righteousness is like the great mountains ; thy judgments are a great deep : O Lord, thou preservest man and beast.

How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God ! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

They shall be abundantly satisfied with the abundance of thy house ; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

For with thee is the fountain of life : in thy light shall we see light.

O continue thy loving-kindness unto them that know thee, and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

WHEN is the time for prayer ?

With the first beams that light the morning sky,

Ere for the toils of day thou dost prepare,

Lift up thy thoughts on high ;

Commend thy loved ones to his watchful care :

Morn is the time for prayer.

When is the time for prayer ?

In every hour while life is spared to thee ;

In crowds or solitudes, in joy or care,

Thy thoughts should heavenward flee ;

At home, at morn or eve, with loved ones there,

Bend thou the knee of prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our spirits, whose mercy is everlasting, and whose truth endureth to all generations, unto thee we lift up our souls and magnify thy name together. We thank thee that we still continue to enjoy the blessings of this life, and the means of preparing for the life which is to come. And we pray that, by putting our whole trust in thy wise and good providence, our hearts may be established in thy fear and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY 11.

MY brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering ; for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

I WANT the spirit of power within,
Of love, and of a healthful mind :
Of power to conquer every sin ;
Of love to God and all mankind ;
Of health that pain and death defies,
Most vigorous when the body dies.

O, that the Comforter would come,
Nor visit as a transient guest,
But fix in me his constant home,
And keep possession of my breast ;
And make my soul his loved abode,
The temple of indwelling God !

O GOD of infinite mercy, in whose loving-kindness we trust for the supply of all our wants, vouchsafe to us such a portion of temporal good as may be needful to support us in our journey through life ; preserve us from sad accidents and all evil ; sanctify our hearts and direct our ways, that we may be united to thee by the living bond of obedience and charity ; and that, always feeling the presence of our gracious and merciful Father, we may become a holy family before thee, and be received hereafter into the family of heaven, for which thou didst send thy best beloved Son to prepare us. Amen.

JANUARY 12.

IF ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever ;

Even the Spirit of truth ; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him : but ye know him ; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

I will not leave you comfortless : I will come to you.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me : and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

OH, not alone with outward sign
Of fear, or voice from heaven,
The message of a truth divine,
The call of God, is given ;
Awakening in the human heart
Love for the True and Right,
Zeal for the Christian's better part,
Strength for the Christian's fight.

Though heralded by naught of fear,
Or outward sign, or show ;
Though only to the inward ear
It whisper soft and low ;
Though dropping as the manna fell,
Unseen, yet from above,
Holy and gentle, heed it well, —
The call to Truth and Love.

ETERNAL God, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us alternate mercies of the darkness and the day ; there is no light but thine, without, within. As thou liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with thy morning upon our souls : quicken all our labor and our prayer : and, though all else declines, let the noontide of thy grace and peace remain. May we walk while it is yet day, in the steps of him who, with fewest hours, finished thy divinest work. Amen.

JANUARY 13.

FOR we are saved by hope : but hope that is seen is not hope : for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities : for we know not what we should pray for as we ought : but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

OH ! draw me, Father, after thee !
So shall I run and never tire ;
With gracious words still comfort me ;
Be thou my hope, my sole desire ;
Free me from every weight ; nor fear
Nor sin can come, if thou art near.

In suffering be thy love my peace ;
In weakness be thy love my power ;
And when the storms of life shall cease,
O Father ! in my latest hour,
In death as life, be thou my guide,
And draw me closer to thy side.

O LORD, we know not what we ought to ask of thee. Thou alone knowest what we need ; and thou lovest us better than we can love ourselves. O Father, give to us, who desire to be thy children, what is best for us. We dare not pray for either crosses or comforts. We present ourselves before thee ; we open our hearts to thee. Behold our wants, which we are ignorant of ; behold them, and do according to thy mercy. Smite, or heal ; cast us down, or raise us up. We adore all thy purposes, though we know them not. We are silent. We yield ourselves up to thee ; having no greater desire than to do thy will as humble disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY 14.

PLACE thy delight in the Lord,
And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
Commit thy way unto the Lord,
Trust in him, and he will give thee success.
He will cause thy justice to shine like the light,
And thy righteousness like the noonday brightness.
Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.
Cease from anger ; give not way to wrath ;
Be not provoked, so as to do evil.
Yet a little while, and the wicked shall be no more :
Thou mayest look for his place, he will not be found.
But the meek shall inherit the earth ;
And delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

O KING of kings, before whose throne
The angels bow, no gift can we
Present, that is indeed our own,
Since heaven and earth belong to thee ;
Yet this our souls through grace impart,
The offering of a thankful heart.

O Holy Spirit, Fount of breath,
Whose comforts never fail nor fade,
Vouchsafe the life that knows no death.
Vouchsafe the light that knows no shade ;
And grant that we, through all our days,
May share thy gifts and sing thy praise.

O GOD, our Maker, who alone canst give us the light
we need, unseal our spiritual vision. Make us to
discern the greatness of thy grace. Teach us the value of
thy gracious messages, that we may know how to thank
thee, that our hymns and praises may be the prompting
and tribute of our hearts. Let not our faith be in word,
but in power. When Christ is formed within us, then shall
we be found fit for thy sanctuary. By true spiritual wor-
ship, we shall go from grace to grace, and from strength to
strength, until we dwell for ever in thy presence. Amen.

JANUARY 15.

I WILL bless the Lord at all times ;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul shall make her boast in the Lord ;
Let the afflicted hear and rejoice !
O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt his name together !
The afflicted man cried, and the Lord heard,
And saved him out of all his troubles.
The angels of the Lord encamp around those who fear
him, and deliver them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good ;
Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
O fear the Lord, ye his saints ;
For there is no want to them that fear him.
The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger ;
But they who fear the Lord want no good thing.

THEY who on the Lord rely
Safely dwell, though danger's nigh ;
Lo, his sheltering wings are spread
O'er each faithful servant's head.

When we wake, or when we sleep,
Angel-guards our vigils keep :
Death and danger may be near ;
Faith and love can never fear.

O GOD, who faintest not, neither art weary ; whose
everlasting work is still fresh as thy creative thought :
we bless thee for the pity of night and sleep, giving us the
rest thou never needest. We would lie down each evening
in peace and thankfulness, and commit the folded hours to
thee. We would go forth each morning consecrating to
thy service the gifts and powers thou hast committed to
our trust. O Lord, through toil and repose, save us from
any fatal slumber of the spirit ; and keep us through life to
the holy vigils of love and service, as they that watch for
thy morning of eternity. Amen.

JANUARY 16.

ALL things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

THOU must be true thyself,
If thou the truth wouldst teach;
Thy soul must overflow,
If thou another soul wouldst reach:
It needs the overflowing heart
To give the lips full speech.
Think truly, and thy thought
Shall the world's famine feed;
Speak truly, and thy word
Shall be a fruitful seed;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, we worship thee, who art supremely good. Thy dealings with us all are kind; and thy commandments all are wise. May we be submissive to thy will. If our days are spent in peace, it is because thou lovest us. We pray thee to strengthen our hearts. Never may we sin against thy goodness. May we be kind to one another; may we be peaceful, meek, and gentle. Fill thou our hearts with love. May the God of peace and love dwell with us. And when, at last, we pass the hour of death, may we be received to the companionship of the good and to thine ever-blessed service. Amen.

THEN said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

WOULDST thou be a true man,
 Thou must be quick and bold
 When the right is to be done,
 The truth is to be told:
 Wearing no friendlike smile
 When the heart is not within;
 Making no truce with fraud and guile,
 No compromise with sin.

Open of eye and speech,
 Open of heart and hand:
 Holding thine own but as in trust
 For thy great brother band;
 True to thy fatherland,
 True to thine own true love,
 True to thine altar and thy Lord
 And the good God above.

FOUNTAIN of life, perfection, and happiness, we lift our hearts to thee, the greatest, wisest, and best of beings. Give us, we pray thee, more worthy conceptions of thy nature and providence, better knowledge of thy truth and will; and, by fuller acquaintance with thee, may our souls find peace. Teach us to know ourselves. May we keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of them are the issues of life. In prosperity may we be humble, and in adversity patient. Save us from anger and malice. Give us prudence and constancy. And may we hold fast our integrity as long as we live. In every station may we discharge our duty, and find entrance to thy glorious kingdom. Amen.

JANUARY 18.

LET the dead bury their dead, but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. . . . No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God.

I count not myself to have apprehended ; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

BUILD thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll !
Leave thy low-vaulted past !
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.

THOU who givest life and all that makes life dear and rich and sweet to our souls, we thank thee for this fair world in which we dwell, which thou hast so fitted up and adorned as a home of love and friendship, as a school of divine instruction, and as a temple of worship. While we dwell in it, may we rightly use and enjoy it, grateful for all thy loving-kindness, and here preparing for the higher joy and service of the world to come. May our best affections be set on things unseen and eternal. May we waste no time in vain dalliance and regrets. But, with our faces set heavenward, may we resolutely press on to do thy will ; making each new day better than the days that are gone, and ready at any moment to greet thy summons to thy nearer presence and higher service. Amen.

JANUARY 19.

I LAID me down and slept ; I awaked ; for the Lord sustained me.

Stand in awe, and sin not : commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

There be many that say, Who will show us any good ? Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

Thou hast put gladness in my heart. . . .

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep : for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

My God, my Father, while I stray
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh, teach me from my heart to say,
Thy will, my God, be done !

Though dark my path, and sad my lot,
Let me be still, and murmur not,
But breathe the prayer divinely taught,
Thy will, my God, be done !

Renew my will from day to day ;
Blend it with thine, and take away
Whate'er now makes it hard to say,
Thy will, my God, be done !

O THOU infinite One, we lift our thoughts unto thee, desiring to rest under the shadow of thy wings, to be warmed by thy love, and to be sheltered and blessed by thy tender mercy. We adore and worship thee, calling thee by every name of power, of wisdom, of beauty, and of love ; yet knowing that thy perfections transcend our utmost thought. By thy grace may we find guidance in all duty ; and comfort in every sorrow, when the mortal fades from our sight, and the shadow of death falls on the empty seat of child or parent or friend. O Lord, by the shining of thy love in our hearts, may we see our way through darkness into light, and journey from strength to strength, our hearts still stayed on thee. Amen.

JANUARY 20.

LAY not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal :

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal :

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also

ALMIGHTY God, in humble prayer
To thee our souls we lift :
Do thou our waiting minds prepare
For thy most needful gift.
We ask not golden streams of wealth
Along our path to flow ;
We ask not undecaying health,
Nor length of years below.

We ask not honors, which an hour
May bring and take away ;
We ask not pleasure, pomp, and power,
Lest we should go astray.
We ask for wisdom : — Lord, impart
The knowledge how to live :
A wise and understanding heart
To all before thee give.

ETERNAL God, who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life ; since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving thee is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of thy holy will ; not waiting for to-morrow, but yielding to-day. Lay to rest, by the persuasion of thy Spirit, the resistance of our passion, indolence, or fear. Consecrate with thy presence the way our feet may go ; and the humblest work will shine, and the roughest places be made plain. Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust into faith and hope and charity, by a simple and steadfast reliance on thy sure will ; and so may we be modest in our time of wealth, patient under disappointment, ready for danger, serene in death. In all things, draw us to the mind of Christ, that thy lost image may be traced again, and thou mayst own us as at one with him and thee. Amen.

JANUARY 21.

NOT every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

LORD ! what offering shall we bring,
At thine altars when we bow ?
Hearts, the pure, unsullied spring,
Whence the kind affections flow ;

Willing hands, to lead the blind,
Heal the wounded, feed the poor ;
Love, embracing all our kind ;
Charity, with liberal store.

Teach us, O thou heavenly King,
Thus to show our grateful mind,
Thus the accepted offering bring, —
Love to thee and all mankind.

O GOD, the Centre of all pure spirits, the everlasting Goodness, we come to thee. Thou art the happiness of heaven ; and thy presence, felt by the soul that communes with thee, is the highest good. Ignorant of thee, we know nothing aright ; wandering from thee, we lose all light and peace ; forgetting thee, we turn our minds from the noblest objects of thought ; and, without love to thee, we are separated from infinite loveliness, and from the only substantial and sufficient source of joy. Thou hast an inexhaustible fulness of life, and thine unceasing communications take nothing from thy power to bless ; thou art infinitely better than all thy gifts, and through all we desire to rise to thee. Help us to know and serve thee aright, and by fidelity in the humble things of to-day may we prepare for thy nearer presence and higher service in the world to come. Amen.

JANUARY 22.

TAKE no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

. . . For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Not that my Father gives to me
More blessings than in days gone by,
Dropping in my uplifted hands
All things for which I blindly cry;

But that his plans and purposes
Have grown to me less strange and dim;
And, where I cannot understand,
I trust the issues unto him.

And, spite of many broken dreams,
This have I truly learned to say:
Prayers which I thought unanswered once
Were answered in God's own best way.

ALMIGHTY God, our Father and Preserver, who hast watched over us during the darkness, and made us glad with the light of this day, grant that we may employ it in thy most holy service; and, even as thou sheddest now the beams of the sun upon the earth to give light unto our bodies, so illumine our souls with the brightness of thy Spirit, to guide us in the paths of thy righteousness. O God, the strength of all them that trust in thee, we beseech thee to continue to us thy gracious protection; and, as the day declineth, so make us mindful of the time when life also shall decline; and grant us always to live in such a state that we may never be afraid to die. Amen.

JANUARY 23.

THEN one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

WHAT shall I do to gain eternal life?

Discharge aright

The simple dues with which each day is rife!

Yea, with thy might:

Ere perfect scheme of action thou devise

Will life be fled;

While he who ever acts as conscience cries,

Shall live, though dead.

O GOD, thou givest all things: to the stars their light, to the fountains their waters, to the earth its plants, to the fruits their flavor, to the flowers their fragrance, to all nature its abundance and beauty; to man thou givest health and reason. It is by thee that we live, that we think, that we enjoy: may we not forget him from whom cometh all blessing. O Lord, watch over our spirit when we wake, and our bodies while we sleep, that we may sleep in peace and wake with thee. Pity our weakness. Send thy holy angels, spirits of light, that they may keep far from us the spirit of evil. Grant that we may resist it with the courage of faith. Give repentance to the sinful, perseverance to the just, and peace to the sorrowful. Let our prayer rise to thee, O God, and upon us let thy blessing descend. Amen.

JANUARY 24.

FOR as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

WHERE faith the soul hath purified,
And penitence hath shriven,
And truth is crowned and glorified,
There — only there — is heaven.

O LORD God, holy Father, be thou blessed both now and for evermore. Let thy servants rejoice in thee, not in themselves, nor in any thing apart from thee: for thou alone art the true gladness; thou art our hope and our crown; thou art our joy and our honor, O Lord. If thou give peace, if thou pour into our hearts holy joy, the souls of thy servants will be full of melody, and shall become devout in thy praise. O Lord, grant us to know that which is of genuine worth, to love that which is truly lovable, to praise that which most pleaseth thee, to esteem that highly which to thee is precious, and to abhor that which in thy sight is evil or unclean. Suffer us not to judge according to the sight of the outward eyes, or to give sentence according to the hearing of the ears of ignorant men; but with a true judgment may we discern between things visible and things spiritual, and, above all, be ever searching after the good pleasure of thy will. What a man is in thy sight, that is he and no more. Make us dutiful and humble children of thine. Unto thee we commend ourselves and all belonging to us, both here and hereafter, now and for ever. Amen.

JANUARY 25.

HEREIN do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men.

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. . . . This charge I commit unto thee, that thou mightest war a good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience, which some having put away, concerning faith have made shipwreck.

Pray for us ; for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.

My conscience is my crown,
Contented thoughts my rest,
My heart is happy in itself,
My bliss is in my breast.

My wishes are but few,
All easy to fulfil ;
I make the limits of my power
The bounds unto my will.

I feel no care of coin,
Well-doing is my wealth :
My mind to me an empire is
While grace affordeth health.

GRACIOUS Lord, we humbly acknowledge thee as the God of our lives and the Giver of all good. Thou givest us sweet sleep ; and when we awake we are still with thee. Encompassed by thy guardian care, we go forth to daily duty. O God, our trust is in thee. Give us grace to perform our duty faithfully ; to use this world as not abusing it ; to hold fast our integrity as long as we live ; to remember that thou seest us always, and that we must render account of all we do and say to thee, our ever-living Witness and Judge. O thou whose blessing abides with the just, make us the joyful objects of that blessing, now and evermore. Amen.

JANUARY 26.

PRESERVE me, O God : for in thee do I put my trust.
... The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance
and of my cup : thou maintainest my lot.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places ; yea, I
have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel ; yea,
also in the night seasons my heart admonisheth me.

I have set the Lord always before me : because he is at
my right hand, I shall not fall.

Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoiceth :
my flesh also shall rest in hope.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in the grave ; neither
wilt thou suffer thy beloved one to see corruption.

Thou wilt show me the path of life : in thy presence
is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures for
evermore.

THERE is a light in yonder skies,
A light unseen by outward eyes ;
But clear and bright to inward sense
It shines, — the star of Providence.

And faith, undimmed by earthly fears,
Shall lift its eye, though filled with tears,
And, while around 'tis dark as night,
Untired, shall mark that heavenly light.

Unmoved, then, let me keep my way,
Supported by that cheering ray,
Which, shining distant, renders clear
The clouds and darkness thronging near.

O LORD God, in all our passage through this world,
and our manifold concerns therein, suffer not our
hearts to be too much set upon it, but always fix our
eyes upon the blessed hope of everlasting life, that, as
we go along, we may make all the things of this world
to minister to that which is to come, and be careful to fit
our souls for that pure and perfect bliss which thou hast
prepared for thy children in the glories of thy kingdom.
Amen.

JANUARY 27.

YE are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

OH wail not in the darksome forest,
Where thou must needs be left alone!
But, e'en when memory is sorest,
Seek out a path and journey on.

Thou wilt have angels near above,
By whom invisible aid is given;
They journey still on tasks of love,
And never rest, except in heaven.

O HOLY Father, may that light which enlighteneth every man who cometh into the world shine into our minds, and kindle in our hearts the beginnings of heavenly life. And, since by our souls we are as nearly allied to the world of spirits as by our bodies we are to this sensible world, grant that by degrees we may be prepared for that eternal state, and be translated thither in thine own good time, improved in knowledge, in virtue, and in holiness, and fitted for communion with thy glorified Son and the saints in light. Amen.

JANUARY 28.

AS the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. . . .

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it, or one member rejoice, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

ALONE amid life's griefs and perils,
The stoutest soul may quail ;
Left to its own unaided efforts,
The strongest arm may fail :

And though all strength still comes from heaven,
All light from God above,
Yet we may sometimes be his angels, —
The apostles of his love.

Then let us learn to help each other,
Hoping unto the end :
Who sees in every man a brother
Shall find in each a friend.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, we beseech thee to give us grace to love thee with all our hearts, and our neighbor as ourselves. Endue us with charitable and upright dispositions, and with humble and contented minds in every condition of life. Conduct us continually to higher degrees of wisdom and excellence. Purify us from all vicious habits and passions. Dispose us heartily to every good work, that we may be proper objects of thy favor and blessing. Amen.

JANUARY 29.

HAPPY is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding :

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies : and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand ; and in her left hand riches and honor.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her : and happy is every one that retaineth her.

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth ; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

OUR wealth leaves us at death,
Our kinsmen at the grave,
But virtues of the mind unto
The heavens we have ;
Wherefore, for virtue's sake,
I can be well content
The sweetest time of all my life
To deem in thinking spent.

ANOTHER day is before us, O Lord. Be with us, we beseech thee, during the toils and sorrows, the joys and pleasures, it may bring. Help us to carry the fragrance of thy love in our heart, so that all we do may be done to thee. Make us tread firmly on the path thy wisdom has appointed for us, not avoiding the toil, or lingering for the joy. Reign thou only in our hearts this day, O King ; and, in weal or woe, teach us to pay thee the glad tribute of prayer and praise in readier service and in deeper love. Amen.

JANUARY 30.

THE heavens declare the glory of God ;
And the firmament showeth his handiwork.

Day unto day uttereth speech,
And night unto night showeth knowledge.
They have no speech nor language,
And their voice is not heard ;
Yet their sound goeth forth to all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.

In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
Which is as a bridegroom coming from his chamber,
And rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
His going forth is from the end of the heaven,
And his circuit unto the ends of it ;
And there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

THE works of God, above, below,
Within us and around,
Are pages in his book, to show
How God himself is found.

Thou, who hast given us eyes to see
And love this sight so fair,
Give us a heart to find out thee,
And read thee everywhere.

WE render thee thanks upon thanks, O Lord, in all times and in all places ; for thou hast sheltered, supported, and led us on through the time past of our life, and brought us to this hour. And we pray thee, grant us to pass this day, and all the days of our life, without sin, with all joy, health, and salvation from evil, and with fear of thee. Drive from us all danger and temptation. Supply us with things good and profitable, and with all things needful for body and soul. Whereinsoever we have sinned against thee, in thought, word, or deed, be pleased in thy goodness to pass it over ; and forsake us not, O God, who hope in thee : neither lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil thoughts and works by thy grace and compassion, who art our Father for ever. Amen.

JANUARY 31.

THE law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul :
the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the
simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart :
the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the
eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever : the
judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much
fine gold : sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned : and in keep-
ing of them there is great reward.

Who can understand his errors ? cleanse thou me from
secret faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins ; let
them not have dominion over me : then shall I be upright,
and I shall be innocent from great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my
heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and
my redeemer.

TEACH me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see ;
And what I do in any thing,
To do it as for thee !

To scorn the senses' sway,
While still to thee I tend ;
In all I do be thou the way ;
In all be thou the end.

All may of thee partake ;
Nothing so small can be,
But draws, when acted for thy sake,
Greatness and worth from thee.

THOU who art invisible to mortal eye, but dost
reveal thyself to the sanctified and holy heart, so
cleanse us by thy grace, we beseech thee, — so cleanse us
in the tears of repentance and by the power of thy Holy
Spirit, — that we may see thee, and walk in the light of
thy countenance all the days of our life ; to the glory of thy
grace. Amen.

FEbruary 1.

BUT when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me :

And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth ; It is expedient for you that I go away : for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you ; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

NEW every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove :
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray :
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

O THOU that makest both darkness and light, thine is also the light invisible, the revelation of thy Spirit to our souls. Enable us to worship and serve thee in spirit and in truth, in word and deed, in private and in public ; to have no pleasure in wrong ; to go not after evil thoughts ; to speak the truth in love ; to hold all things in subjection to thy will ; to be content with what is rightly our own. We commend to thee, O Lord, our souls and bodies, our minds and thoughts, with all their prayers and intentions ; our senses and limbs, our words and works, our life and death ; our friends and benefactors, and all who have a claim on us by duty, kindred, or neighborhood ; our country, and all mankind. We commend to thee, O Lord, our going out and coming in, our down-sitting and uprising. Thou, Lord, art the preserver of all living things ; and the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. The Lord bless us and keep us, and show the light of his countenance upon us, and be merciful to us, evermore. Amen.

FEBRUARY 2.

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh ; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death ; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

My spirit longs for Thee
To dwell within my breast ;
Though I unworthy be
Of so divine a guest !

Of so divine a guest
Unworthy though I be,
Yet has my heart no rest
Unless it come to thee :

Unless it come to thee
In vain I look around ;
In all that I can see
No rest is to be found.

No rest is to be found
But in thy blessed love :
Oh ! let my wish be crown'd,
And send it from above !

O LORD, our heavenly Father, who hast safely brought us to this day, defend, guide, and sustain us in the same with thy great power ; and grant that this day we may not fall into any sin, neither run into any danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY 3.

ASK, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you :

For every one that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone ?

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent ?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him ?

PRAYER is to God the soul's sure way ;
So flows the grace he waits to give :
Long as they live should Christians pray ;
They learn to pray when first they live.

Depend on him ; thou shalt prevail ;
Make all thy wants and wishes known :
Fear not, his mercy will not fail ;
Ask but in faith, it shall be done.

O LORD our God, who hast brought us to the beginning of another day, and vouchsafed to us this season of holy rest, look down, we pray thee, on us, thy worshipping children, now before thee. May we have in remembrance thy works of righteousness and of love, and in our humble measure feel what that divine goodness must be, which continues to take care of us from week to week and from year to year, and which was the same in the time of our fathers and the old time before them ! But most of all, O heavenly Father, we thank thee for thy boundless grace and mercy in Jesus Christ. In his spirit may we come to thee at this time with our glad homage and filial obedience ! O thou, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse, we beseech thee, the thoughts of our hearts by the inspirations of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy hallowed name. Amen.

FEBRUARY 4.

OH how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee ; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men !

Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence : thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion.

Blessed be the Lord : for he hath showed me his marvellous kindness.

For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes : nevertheless thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto thee.

O love the Lord, all ye his saints : for the Lord preserveth the faithful.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.

MY God, I love thee : not because
I hope for heaven thereby ;
Nor because they who love thee not
Must burn eternally.

Not with the hope of gaining aught ;
Not seeking a reward ;
But, as thyself hast loved me,
O ever-loving Lord :

E'en so I love thee, and will love,
And in thy praise will sing ;
Solely because thou art my God,
And my eternal King.

MOST gracious and merciful Father, we resign ourselves and all our interests to thy disposal, in the humble hope that thy mercy will never forsake us, and that thou wilt cause all things to work together for our good. We would submit patiently to thy will under every affliction ; and we humbly pray that we may so pass through the changes of this world, as finally to be prepared for the perfect and eternal joys of the world to come. Amen.

FEBRUARY 5.

AS I was with Moses, so I will be with thee : I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Be strong and of a good courage : for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee : turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth ; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein : for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

HE always wins who sides with God,
To him no chance is lost ;
God's will is sweetest to him when
It triumphs at his cost.

Ill that he blesses is our good,
And unblest good is ill :
And all is right that seems most wrong
If it be his sweet will !

THOU, O Lord, art the supreme Ruler of the nations and the families of the earth : we beseech thee to add the demonstrations of thy Spirit to the demonstrations of thy power ; that, when thy judgments are manifest in the world, the inhabitants thereof may learn righteousness. Give us, O God, an affecting sense of the realities with which we have to do ;— of a God who is above us, a death, a judgment, and an eternity. Amen.

FEBRUARY 6.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

FOR what is there on earth I can desire
Of all that it can give or take from me;
Or whom in heaven doth my spirit seek,
O God, but thee?

O GOD, we thank thee for the proofs thou givest of thy essential pure and perfect benignity, so that through all clouds and darkness we can see a gracious Father. In this world of shadows, this fleeting tide of things; this life of dreams, we rejoice that there is a reality, sure, unchanging, in which we may find rest; that there is a power which can cleanse us from all sin, raise us to all virtue and happiness, and give us endless growth. How great is our privilege, that we have such an object for our hope and trust: that our souls may contemplate infinite loveliness, greatness, goodness; that we may at all times commune with the best of beings. Father, help us to know thee aright; to become truly acquainted with thee, and in that acquaintance may our souls find peace. Amen.

FEBRUARY 7.

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged.

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged : and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye ?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye ; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye ?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye ; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

JUDGE not : the workings of his brain
And of his heart thou canst not see :
What looks to thy dim eyes a stain,
In God's pure light may only be
A scar brought from some well-won field,
Where thou wouldst only faint and yield.

And judge none lost : but wait and see,
With hopeful pity, not disdain :
The depth of the abyss may be
The measure of the height of pain,
And love and glory that may raise
The soul to God in after days.

O THOU Searcher of hearts, by whom alone actions and words and thoughts are justly weighed, keep far from us all disposition to judge and censure our brethren. Standing in constant need of thy forgiveness, may we not deprive ourselves of the appeal to thy mercy by uncharitably judging our fellow-men ; but, in our conduct to each other, let mercy still rejoice against judgment, as we pray that it may do when we stand before thy awful tribunal. Amen.

FEBRUARY 8.

BLESSED are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.

I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.

My God, accept my heart this day,
And make it always thine, —
That I from thee no more may stray,
No more from thee decline.

Let every thought, and work, and word,
To thee be ever given, —
Then life shall be thy service, Lord,
And death the gate of heaven.

OUR Father in heaven, we bow before thee in reverence and godly fear; and in humility and love we would adore thee. While the universe in solemn harmony proclaims thy glory, to that anthem of praise may we add our hallelujahs! We adore thee that thy laws are all benevolent and holy, working for the welfare of thy creatures and children. May we know and feel that the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; that the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; and the commandment of the Lord pure, enlightening the eyes! So may our delight ever be in the law of the Lord! Amen.

FEBRUARY 9.

LABOR not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. It is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

BREAD of heaven, on thee we feed,
For thy flesh is meat indeed;
Ever let our souls be fed
With this true and living bread.

Day by day with strength supplied,
Through the life of him who died,
Lord of life, oh let us be
Rooted, grafted, built on thee!

O GOD, the Father of our spirits, who hast vouchsafed to us not only the bread which perisheth, but also that living bread which cometh down from heaven: grant, we beseech thee, that, as thou hast wonderfully adapted the one to our natural wants and appetites, so we may be enabled to discern and experience the no less wonderful adaptation of the other to the eternal wants of our spirits, and enjoy the fulness of thy spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY 10.

BEWARE of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so, every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

O THOU, who hast thy servants taught
That not by words alone,
But by the fruits of holiness,
The life of God is shown;

When we our voices lift in praise,
Give thou us grace to bring
An offering of unfeigned thanks,
And with the spirit sing.

And in the dangerous path of life
Uphold us as we go;
That with our lips and in our lives
Thy glory we may show.

FATHER of all the children of men, though dwelling in the high and lofty place, thou art with them also of a lowly heart. With cheerful faces and joyful hearts we would come to thee to learn the way of eternal life. May the hours of this day and all days be holy; and may thy word be precious to our souls. As we listen to the call of thy spirit, may we feel thy holy presence. May we have thy word and spirit in our hearts; and so be fitted for life's varied scenes, for duties in which we shall need thy light, for trials in which we shall need thy strength. O God, we cannot think of our blessings without remembering those who know them not. Let the earth be filled with thy glory, and all thy children share thy salvation. To distant lands and heathen isles send the light of thy glorious word. Amen.

FEBRUARY 11.

GET wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her.

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

I have taught thee in the way of wisdom: I have led thee in right paths.

When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

FATHER, O hear me!

Pardon and spare me!

Quench all my terrors,

Blot out my errors,

That by thine eyes they may no more be scanned.

Order my goings,

Direct all my doings:

As it may please thee,

Retain or release me:

All I commit to thy Fatherly hand.

ALmighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, amid the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found, even on the kingdom and promises of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY 12.

THEN cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me ?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now : for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water : and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him :

And, lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The people which sat in darkness saw great light ; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent : for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

HELPED by thy grace, no more I'll stray,
No more resist thy voice ;
Where thou, Good Shepherd, lead'st the way,
That way shall be my choice.

Too long, alas ! my wand'ring feet
The crooked paths have trod ;
Henceforth I'll follow, as is meet,
The sure, unerring road.

All praise, O Lord, to thee alone,
Below, as 'tis above :
And may thy joys, Eternal One,
Both draw and crown my love.

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee, have mercy upon us ; pardon and deliver us from all our sins ; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness ; and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

FEBRUARY 13.

FEAR not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul : but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father in heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father in heaven.

I WORSHIP thee, sweet Will of God !
And all thy ways adore,
And every day I live I seem
To love thee more and more.

When obstacles and trials seem
Like prison-walls to be,
I do the little I can do,
And leave the rest to thee.

I have no cares, O blessed Will !
For all my cares are thine ;
I live in triumph, Lord, for thou
Hast made thy triumphs mine.

O GOD, under the shadow of thy wings let us rest and trust. Protect and sustain us. Thou wilt support us, both when little and even to gray hairs. When our strength is of thee, we are strong ; when we rely only on ourselves, we are feeble and frail. Let us return to thee, O Lord, that from their weariness our souls may rise towards thee ; leaning on the wings which thou hast created, and passing on to thyself, who hast wonderfully made them : for with thee is refreshment and true strength. Then shalt thou so dwell in us, as now thou workest with us. Amen.

FEBRUARY 14.

UNTO thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be put to shame.

Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the humble he teacheth his way.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

COME, O Creator Spirit blest!
And in our souls take up thy rest;
Come, with thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which thou hast made.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
And grant us thy true peace instead;
So shall we not, with thee for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

EVER-PRESENT One, who knowest all our needs, lead us in the right path. Fill our hearts with gratitude, and make us conscious of thy presence, thy mercy, and thy love; control thou our thoughts; enlarge our souls with a broader charity. May we delight to contribute to others' well-being and joy! As we go forth this day to duty, may we be penetrated and filled with a deep sense of the true meaning and purpose of life! Trusting implicitly in thee, may we go forward courageously, sure that while we do right we are for ever safe in thy fatherly protection! Amen.

FEBRUARY 15.

BY his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

FOR my work oh make me strong!

Make me cheerful on my way,

Give me hope to bear along

In my heart this livelong day.

Inwardly renew my youth,

Hover o'er me heavenly Dove!

Give me gleams of higher truth,

Give a pulse of deeper love!

WE beseech thee, O Lord, open the heavens from whence thy gifts descend to us; and from hence may our hearts look up with gratitude and trust to thee! Grant that, while we receive thy benefits, we may render the service enjoined upon us. Look down from heaven, O Lord; behold and visit this vine which thou hast planted. Strengthen the weak, relieve the contrite, confirm the strong; build them up in love, cleanse them with purity, enlighten them with wisdom, keep them with mercy. Thou who art the eternal Shepherd of men, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, seek for the lost, convert the wandering, bind up that which is broken. May we all feel the touch of thy hand, and receive the joy of thy Holy Spirit, that we may remain blessed for evermore! Amen.

REJOICE in the Lord, O ye righteous : for praise is comely for the upright.

For the word of the Lord is right ; and all his works are done in truth.

He loveth righteousness and judgment : the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made ; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Let all the earth fear the Lord : let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

For he spake, and it was done ; he commanded, and it stood fast.

The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

WHAT thou wilt, O Father, give !
All is gain that I receive ;
Let the lowliest task be mine,
Grateful, so the work be thine ;
Let me find the humblest place
In the shadow of thy grace ;
Let me find in thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy ;
Out of self to love be led,
And to heaven acclimated.
Until all things sweet and good
Seem my natural habitude.

O THOU Infinite One, who dwellest not only in temples made with hands, but art a perpetual presence, living and moving and having thy being in every star that shines above and every flower that blooms beneath ! We flee unto thee, who art always with us, and pray that we may commune with thy Spirit, feeling thy presence and pouring out our gratitude. Amid all the noises of earth, may the still small voice of thy Spirit come into our souls, wakening our noblest faculties to new life. May the spirit of religion lift us up when we are bowed down, and strengthen us when we are weak, and give joy of heart to our inner man when the mortal flesh weeps and our eyes overflow with tears. Amen.

FEBRUARY 17.

YE have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you ;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven : for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye ? do not even the publicans the same ?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others ? do not even the publicans so ?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Not by deeds that win the world's applauses,
Not by works that give the world renown,
Not by martyrdom or vaunted crosses,
Canst thou win and wear the immortal crown.

Daily struggling, though unloved and lonely,
Every day a rich reward will give :
Thou wilt find, by hearty striving only,
And truly loving, thou canst truly live.

ALmighty and ever-blessed God, whose infinite grace and mercy have been revealed to mankind by thy Son Jesus Christ : we, thine unworthy servants, deeply sensible of our manifold transgressions, but encouraged by thy goodness and loving-kindness, do most humbly beseech thee to accept us at this time, and to inspire our hearts with such earnest desires after heavenly food, as may be in some measure suitable to our great need of it : and thus, coming to the table of thy daily bounty with a true spiritual hunger and thirst, may our souls find the refreshing grace and strength which are necessary to support and carry us forward on our Christian course. Grant this, O holy Father, for thy great love to us shown in Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY 18.

THINK not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

IF on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

Old friends, old scenes will lovelier be,
As more of heaven in each we see:
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

BORNE up in the arms of thy loving-kindness, O our Father; never forgotten, but cared for with more than an earthly parent's love, — we would look to thee in filial trust, believing that thou knowest what is best for us, and that thou doest all things well. Teach us that when we disobey thee we wrong our own souls: while, to those who faithfully serve thee, thou bringest better results than we can foresee or plan. Profoundly impress it upon our hearts that our only real enemy is sin: that nothing in the universe can harm us as we injure ourselves by our own wrong-doing; that all things work together for good to them who love God. Father, forgive our sins and shortcomings, and grant those things thou seest we need. Let thy kind providence extend to all who are dear to us and all for whom we should pray. Amen.

FEBRUARY 19.

THE light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But, if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

LORD of eternal purity!
Who dost the world with light adorn,
And paint the tracts of azure sky
With lovely hues of eve and morn:

Scatter our night, eternal God,
And kindle thy pure beam within;
Free us from guilt's oppressive load,
And break the deadly bonds of sin.

O GOD, ever blessed and holy; none but the angels and thy redeemed can serve thee with a perfect joy. On us, as we look up to the light of thy countenance, the shadows of shameful remembrance fall: and to all thy mercies we must still answer with a cry for more. Called in our measure to be perfect as thou art perfect, we have been most unlike to thee, and are not worthy to be deemed thy children. Thirsting with momentary desires, we have forsaken the living springs of heavenly wisdom, of which he that drinketh shall never thirst again. We have been slow to the calls of affection, heedless of the duties, hard under the sorrows, which are thy gracious discipline; yet are oppressed with cares thou layest not on us, with ease thou dost not permit, and wants thou wilt never bless. O Lord, regard our complaint: it is only against our faithless hearts. We have nothing to plead, and renounce our pride before thee. Only leave us not to ourselves. Visit us with the wrestlings of thy Spirit; and lay on us the cross, if we may but grow into the holiness, of Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY 20.

IN thee, O Lord, do I put my trust ; let me never be ashamed : deliver me in thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to me ; deliver me speedily : be thou my strong rock, for a house of defence to save me.

For thou art my rock and my fortress ; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

Into thine hand I commit my spirit : thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy : for thou hast considered my trouble ; thou hast known my soul in adversities.

Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble.

But I trusted in thee, O Lord : I said, Thou art my God.

My times are in thy hand.

Make thy face to shine upon thy servant : save me for thy mercies' sake.

Let me not be ashamed, O Lord ; for I have called upon thee.

Oh ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow :
Look now ! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing ; —
Oh ! rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

ALL is from thee, our Father and unfailing Friend, — all joy, all support, all progress, all hope. Oh, may we be worthy of thy great love ; using thy mercies according to thy will ; renouncing all evil, and cleaving only to what is good. We thank thee for the daily proofs of thy love. We thank thee for thy gospel, which illumines the path of duty, the dark places of sorrow, and the bed of death. May we look beyond the bounds of mortality, and live for that blessedness which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived. And wilt thou keep our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Amen.

FEBRUARY 21.

BE not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase:

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:

For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

SHINE on our souls, eternal God,
With rays of beauty shine;
Oh, let thy favor crown our days,
And all their round be thine!

With thee let every week begin,
With thee each day be spent,
For thee each fleeting hour improved,
Since each by thee is lent.

Midst hourly cares may love present
Its incense at thy throne;
And while the world our hands employs,
Our hearts be thine alone.

O HOLY Father, who hast graciously given us our mortal life, and in thy rich mercy offered us also joys that are eternal: forgive, we beseech thee, our folly in wandering from thy house to feed upon earthly husks. Bring us, by the influences of thy grace, to our right minds; and help us in our endeavor to return, and to lay hold on the hope set before us. And unto thee, through him who is the way, the truth, and the life, be all honor evermore. Amen.

FEBRUARY 22.

WALK in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous. For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

The memory of the just is blessed.

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely.

In the way of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

He that followeth after righteousness findeth life, righteousness, and honor.

Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

PRAISE to the good, the pure, the great,
Who made us what we are,
Who lit the flame that yet shall glow
With radiance brighter far !
Glory to them in coming time,
And through eternity,
Who burst the captive's galling chain,
And bade the world go free.

ETERNAL God, in whom the spirits of just men do rest in peace, we thank thee for all who have departed this life in thy fear and love, and for the hope of future joy in the resurrection of the just. Blessed be the memory of all thy faithful ones. Oh, let the cloud of witnesses, the innumerable company of those who have gone before and entered into rest, be to us an example of godly life. Teach us who now dwell on earth to practise their virtues, to imitate their fidelity, and to follow their example. With patience may we so run the race that is set before us, as to find entrance into thy heavenly presence. Amen

FEBRUARY 23.

AND besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue ; and to virtue, knowledge ;

And to knowledge, temperance ; and to temperance, patience ; and to patience, godliness ;

And to godliness, brotherly kindness ; and to brotherly kindness, charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure : for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall :

For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

OH, not alone on the mount of prayer
Must the Christian serve his God ;
But the burden of daily life must bear,
And tread where his Saviour trod.

Yet with him through every changing scene
Doth the spirit of prayer abide ;
When earth is lovely, and heaven serene,
That spirit his course shall guide.

And when the storm rages, and woe and wrath
Would an earth-born courage quell,
He knows that his God is around his path,
And ordereth all things well.

L ORD of all power and might, who art the Author and Giver of all good things : graft in our hearts the love of thy name ; increase in us true religion ; nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY 24.

THE steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord :
and he delighteth in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down : for
the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

I have been young, and now am old : yet have I not seen
the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

He is ever merciful, and lendeth ; and his seed is
blessed.

Depart from evil, and do good ; and dwell for ever-
more.

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright : for the
end of that man is peace.

LORD, in thy light, oh let me walk this day,
By thy love prompted act, and speak, and pray,
As a new creature it becomes to do,
Whose aim it is, in all his words and ways,
To set forth duly his Creator's praise,
And new in heart, in life be also new.

I pray not, "Take my troubles all away :"
It is for love to bear them that I pray,
And firm belief that all is for my good ;
That every trouble must be kindly meant,
Since from the hands of Him it must be sent,
Who is my loving Father and my God.

ENCOMPASS our minds this day, O our Father, with
thoughts of heaven. Give thine angels charge con-
cerning us, that our feet may not stumble : that we may
run with patience the race that is set before us, in the
strait and narrow way ; turning neither to the right hand
nor to the left, and throwing aside every besetting sin.
Oh, come, thou Spirit of truth, — come, and take up thine
abode evermore in our souls. Be the life of our lives, —
a fountain springing up within us to everlasting life, that
we may never thirst again, and that our hearts may become
like Eden, like the garden of the Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY 25.

I HAVE yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

THOU Grace divine, encircling all,
A soundless, shoreless sea,
Wherein, at last, our souls shall fall,
O Love of God most free!

When o'er dizzy steeps we go,
One soft hand blinds our eyes,
The other leads us safe and slow,
O Love of God most wise!

And though we turn us from thy face,
And wander wide and long,
Thou hold'st us still in thine embrace,
O Love of God most strong.

ALmighty God, thou divine Fountain and Dispenser, thou Author and Finisher, of every good and perfect gift: carry on, we beseech thee, that work of grace which we trust is already begun in us. May the good thoughts that are suggested to our minds spring up into fixed principles; and may our heavenly desires become a new nature, and our holy purposes and resolutions advance into patient continuance in well-doing; and may our obedience become more and more free, cheerful, and devout! Oh, may our religious progress manifest the sincerity of our Christian profession, and that we are indeed alive unto God, and quickened by his Spirit! Grant that by thy gracious help we may be like a flourishing tree planted by the rivers of water, and bringing forth its fruit in its season. Amen.

FEBRUARY 26.

THIS, then, is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth :

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

THE saddened heart, the restless soul,
The toil-worn frame and mind,
Alike confess thy sweet control,
O Love of God most kind !

But not alone thy care we claim
Our wayward steps to win :
We know thee by a dearer name,
O Love of God within !

And, filled and quickened by thy breath,
Our souls are strong and free
To rise o'er sin and fear and death,
O Love of God, to thee !

ALmighty God, our Father and Preserver, who hast watched over us during the darkness, and made us glad with the light of this day : grant that we may employ it in thy most holy service ; and, even as thou sheddest now the beams of the sun upon the earth to give light unto our bodies, so illumine our souls with the brightness of thy Spirit, to guide us in the paths of thy righteousness. O God, the strength of all them that trust in thee, we beseech thee to continue to us thy gracious protection ; and, as the day declineth, so make us mindful of the time when life also shall decline ; and grant us always to live in such a state that we may never be afraid to die. Hold us ready for that rest which Christ has entered as our fore-runner. Amen.

FEBRUARY 27.

BLESSED is the nation whose God is the Lord ; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

The Lord looketh from heaven ; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

He fashioneth their hearts alike ; he considereth all their works.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy ;

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waiteth for the Lord : he is our help and our shield.

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

WE scatter seeds with careless hand,
And dream we ne'er shall see them more ;
But for a thousand years
Their fruit appears
In weeds that mar the land,
Or healthful store.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, send down upon us, thy children, the healthful spirit of thy grace ; and, that we may truly please thee, pour upon us the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O God, for thy great love. Most gracious God, we humbly beseech thee that thou wouldest be pleased to direct and prosper all our consultations to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy church, the safety, honor, and welfare of our beloved country ; that all things may be so ordered and settled upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These, and all other things necessary for us and thy whole church, we humbly beg in the faith and spirit of thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY 28.

MY son, forget not my law ; but let thine heart keep my commandments :

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee : bind them about thy neck ; write them upon the table of thine heart :

So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart ; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

HE liveth long who liveth well,
All else is life but flung away ;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of true things truly done each day.

Then fill each hour with what will last,
Buy up the moments as they go :
The life above, when this is past,
Is the ripe fruit of life below.

HEAVENLY Father, who lovest us always better than we know, we desire to love thee more and more. Thou dost grant us more good gifts than we deserve or rightly use. Thou art ever seeking to bless us, would we only accept thy blessing. Teach us that when we disobey thee, we harm ourselves ; while all things work together for good to those who love and serve thee. Teach us what is good in thy pure sight, and help us to practise the good we this day learn. May every day's joy, toil, and trial bring us nearer to thee. Forgive our sins, and keep us from sinning again. Help us to seek and work for what is right and true. May we see in every human being a child of thine, and may all people learn to dwell as one great family in brotherly love. To thy service may we live, and in thy favor may we die. May thy kingdom come, and thy will be done. Amen.

FEBRUARY 29.

TURN us again O God, and cause thy face to shine ;
and we shall be saved.

O remember not against us former iniquities : let thy tender mercies speedily succor us ; for we are brought very low.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the honor of thy name : for thy name's sake save us, and forgive our iniquities.

May thy hand be over the man whom thy right hand hath established : the man whom thou madest strong for thyself.

So will we no more turn back from thee. Revive us, and on thy name alone will we call. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts ! Show us the light of thy countenance, and we shall be saved.

COME, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise :
Hosannas languish on our tongues
And our devotion dies.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers ;
Come, shed abroad a Saviour's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

O LORD, I know not what I should ask of thee. Thou only knowest what I want ; and thou lovest me, if I am thy friend, better than I can love myself. O Lord, give to me, thy child, what is proper, whatsoever it may be. I dare not ask either crosses or comforts. I only present myself before thee. I open my heart to thee. Behold my wants, which I myself am ignorant of ; but do thou behold, and do according to thy mercy. Smite or heal. Depress me or raise me up. I adore all thy purposes without knowing them. I am silent. I offer myself in sacrifice. I abandon myself to thee. I have no more any desire but to accomplish thy will. Lord, teach me how to pray. Dwell thou thyself in me by thy Holy Spirit. Amen.

MARCH 1.

A LITTLE that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.

For the arms of the wicked shall be broken : but the Lord upholdeth the righteous.

The Lord knoweth the days of the upright : and their inheritance shall be for ever.

They shall not be ashamed in the evil time : and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again : but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth : and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

Now with the rising golden dawn,
Let us, the children of the day,
Cast off the darkness which so long
Has led our guilty souls astray.

Oh, may the morn so pure, so clear,
Its own sweet calm in us instil ;
A guileless mind, a heart sincere,
Simplicity of word and will :

And ever, as the day glides by,
May we the busy senses rein ;
Keep guard upon the hand and eye,
Nor let the body suffer stain.

For all day long, on heaven's high tower,
There stands a sentinel, who spies
Our every action, hour by hour,
From early dawn till daylight dies.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day : defend us in the same with thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger ; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH 2.

NOW there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom ; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit ;

To another faith by the same Spirit ; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit ;

To another the working of miracles ; to another prophecy ; to another discerning of spirits ; to another divers kinds of tongues ; to another the interpretation of tongues :

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

LET thy good Spirit by the word
Work mightily within us, O Lord,
Our souls and bodies filling !
O let the sun of grace shine bright,
That there may be abundant light
In us and in our dwelling :
On our way, night and day,
With the heavenly manna feed us,
To the heavenly Canaan lead us.

O ALMIGHTY and merciful God, who givest unto thy people thy Holy Spirit as a sure pledge of thy heavenly kingdom : grant that thy Spirit may bear witness with our spirit, that we are thy children and heirs of everlasting life. O Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy Church and household continually in thy true religion ; that they who do lean only upon the hope of thy heavenly grace may be defended by thy mighty power, and at length received into thy everlasting kingdom. Amen.

MARCH 3.

FOR as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body : so also is Christ.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free ; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

And if they were all one member, where were the body?

But now are they many members, yet but one body.

And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee : nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary :

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it ; or one member be honored, all the members re-
joice with it.

SEND peace and blessing from above,
Unite us all in faith and love,
Who in this house are living ;
Let charity our hearts prepare
To suffer long and all things bear,
Meek, gentle, and forgiving :
Nor in aught Christ hath taught
Let us fail to one another,
But each love and help his brother.

O HEAVENLY Father, who hast commanded us to love one another as thy children, and hast ordained the highest friendship in the bond of thy Spirit : we beseech thee to maintain and preserve us therein, with all those to whom we are bound by any especial tie. Send down upon us the dew of thy heavenly grace, and pour thy Spirit into our hearts, that, walking in thy way all the days of our lives, we may have joy in each other that passeth not away ; and, having lived together in love here ; may hereafter live for ever together in that blessed kingdom to which thy glorified Son will welcome all his faithful disciples. Amen.

MARCH 4.

FOR the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints ; they are preserved for ever : but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

The law of his God is in his heart ; none of his steps shall slide.

Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land :

I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay-tree.

Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not : yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

Now doth the sun ascend the sky,
And wake creation with its ray ;
Keep us from sin, O Lord most high,
Through all the actions of the day.

So when the evening stars appear,
And in their train the darkness bring ;
May we, O Lord, with conscience clear,
Our praise to thy pure glory sing.

OUR Father, who dost speak to us to-day as to thy servants of old, in the order of nature and life as from Sinai's awful mount : thy righteous laws, wrought into the very frame of our being, bring penalties for every disobedience, and unfailing reward to all fidelity. Thanks for the precepts, the example, the life, the character of Jesus Christ, the glorious pattern of the perfect life. O Father, look upon us in mercy and help us. We have manifold needs : thou hast the inexhaustible fulness whence all our wants may be supplied. Thou who in thy good providence dost give us our daily bread, oh, give to us that bread of life without which our souls perish. Thou who hast given us this mortal existence, prepare us we pray thee for the life immortal. Amen.

MARCH 5.

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord ; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season ; his leaf also shall not wither ; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so : but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous : but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

FATHER in heaven, to whom our hearts
Would lift themselves in prayer,
Drive from our souls each earthly thought,
And show thy presence there.
Each moment of our lives renews
The mercies of the Lord ;
Each moment is itself a gift
To bear us on to God.

Help us to break the galling chains
This world has round us thrown ;
Each passion of our hearts subdue,
Each cherished sin disown.
O Father ! kindle in our souls
A never-dying flame
Of holy love, of grateful trust,
In thine almighty name.

ALmighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men : we bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life ; but, above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives ; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MARCH 6.

TRULY the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is
for the eyes to behold the sun :

But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all ;
yet let him remember the days of darkness ; for they shall
be many. All that cometh is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth ; and let thy heart
cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways
of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes : but know
thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into
judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and
put away evil from thy flesh.

OH, how kindly hast thou led me,
Heavenly Father, day by day ;
Found my dwelling, clothed and fed me,
Furnished friends to cheer my way !
Didst thou bless me, didst thou chasten,
With thy smile or with thy rod,
'Twas that still my step might hasten
Heavenward, homeward, to my God !

I would trust in thy protecting,
Wholly rest upon thine arm,
Follow wholly thy directing,
Thou mine only guard from harm !
Keep me from mine own undoing,
Help me turn to thee when tried ;
Still my footsteps, Father, viewing,
Keep me ever at thy side !

ALMIGHTY God, conducted thus far by thy goodness,
we are here this day, living monuments of thy mercy.
The day of our life on earth thou hast graciously prolonged ;
and if thou wilt give us strength we may yet come off more
than conquerors over the evil in the world. With patience
may we run the race that is before us, and faithfully finish
the work given us to do. The experience of every day
teaches us that we are not sufficient to ourselves : give us
a divine faith to meet the toil, trial, and suffering that
await us. By humble confession of our sins and by the
exercise of sincere devotion, we seek thine assistance, O
Lord. Asking, may we receive ; seeking, may we find ;
knocking, may thy kingdom be opened unto us. Amen.

MARCH 7.

I KNOW thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil ; . . . and hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. . . . To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. . . . I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty. . . . Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer. . . . Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

THOU who dost dwell alone,
Thou who dost know thine own,
Thou to whom all are known
From the cradle to the grave, —
Save, oh, save !

From the world's temptations,
From tribulations,
From that fierce anguish
Wherein we languish ;
From that torpor deep
Wherein we lie asleep ;
From the cradle to the grave,
Save, oh, save.

O TENDER and merciful Father, who dost sustain those who suffer for righteousness' sake, and hast made the blood of the martyrs the seed of the church : grant, we beseech thee, that we may readily make the sacrifices that may be required of us for the good of mankind, and that all our sufferings may be sweetened by that love of thee which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing holy : increase and multiply upon us thy mercy ; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not those things which are eternal. Amen.

MARCH 8.

I WILL praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart ; I will show forth all thy marvellous works.

I will be glad and rejoice in thee : I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most high !

For thou hast maintained my right and my cause ; thou satest in the throne judging right.

The Lord shall endure for ever : he hath prepared his throne for judgment.

And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee : for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

My spirit on thy care,

O Father, I recline :

Thou wilt not leave me to despair,

For thou art love divine.

In thee I place my trust,

On thee I calmly rest :

I know thee good, — I know thee just,

And count thy will the best.

OUR Father and best Friend on earth and in heaven, thy mercies never fail. They are more in number than the stars ; they are new every day, and fresh every moment. Oh, may we love thee as we ought. Though we see thee not, thou art ever near, on our right hand and our left. Thy righteous judgment weighs and measures us : and thy grace, ever ready to help us, is sufficient for every need. Oh, save us from evil desires, from unrighteous deeds, and from words and thoughts that are false or unkind. Help us to be faithful and patient, to be cheerful and loving. May we daily aspire and grow toward the divine stature and standard of excellence shown us in Jesus Christ. May we walk in that holy path where his footsteps lead the way. And to thee be praise for ever. Amen.

MARCH 9.

I WILL extol thee, O Lord ; for thou hast lifted me up,
and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave :
thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks
at the remembrance of his holiness.

For his anger endureth but a moment ; in his favor is
life : weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in
the morning.

And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.

SINCE, now refreshed, the soul once more puts on new life and power,
Oh, let thine image, Lord, alone gild the first waking hour !
Let that dear presence dawn and glow fairer than morn's first ray,
And thy pure radiance overflow the splendor of the day :
So in the coming even, so in the opening morn,
When deeper slumber shall be given and fresher life be born,
Shine out, true Light ! to guide my way amid that deepening gloom,
And rise, O Morning Star ! the first that day-spring to illumine !

HONOR and praise be unto thee, O Lord, for all thy
loving-kindness to us : for forming us after thine
own image, for creating us anew by thy dear Son, for
quickenings us by thy Holy Spirit, for helping us in our
necessities and dangers, comforting us in our tribulations
and sorrows, and sparing us until this hour, the living to
praise thee. O merciful Father, as we have received these
benefits of thy great goodness, so grant us always thy
Holy Spirit ; that we may continually grow in thankfulness
to thee, and be led into all truth. O Lord, strengthen
our faith ; kindle in us a fervent love towards thee and our
neighbor. Suffer us not to receive in vain the rich and
precious treasure of thy word. May it purify us from evil,
and increase in us those heavenly virtues which were
perfected in Jesus Christ. Hold thou us, that we may be
delivered from all temptations, and may walk according to
thy holy will until our lives' end. Amen.

MARCH 10.

JESUS said, If a man love me, he will keep my words : and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings : and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you : not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

WE ask for peace, O Lord !
Thy children ask thy peace ;
Not, what the world calls rest,
That toil and care should cease,
That through bright sunny hours
Calm life should fleet away,
And tranquil night should fade
In smiling day :
It is not for such peace that we would pray.

It is thine own, O Lord !
Who toil while others sleep,
Who sow with loving care
What other hands shall reap, —
They lean on thee entranced,
In calm and perfect rest :
Give us that peace, O Lord,
Divine and blest,
Thou keepest for those hearts who love thee best.

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom : grant us, thy servants, we humbly beseech thee, that peace which the world can neither give nor take away ; that we, who in all our dangers rely on thy goodness, may under thy Fatherly protection be defended against all adversities, and evermore rejoice in thy blessed service, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

MARCH 11.

WHEN wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul ;

Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee :

To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things ;

Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness ;

Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked ;

Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths :

That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

THROUGH all this life's eventful road,
Fain would I walk with thee, my God,
And make thy presence light around,
And every step on holy ground.

Each blessing would I trace to thee,
In every grief thy mercy see ;
And through the paths of duty move,
Conscious of thine encircling love.

And when the angel Death stands by,
Be this my strength, that thou art nigh ;
And this my joy, that I shall be
With those who dwell in light with thee.

O GOD, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright ; grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH 12.

BLESSED is the man that endureth temptation: for, when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

My God, my strength, my hope,
On thee I cast my care,
With humble confidence look up,
And know thou hear'st my prayer.

I want a godly fear,
A quick-discerning eye,
That looks to thee when sin is near,
And bids the tempter fly;

A spirit still prepared,
And armed with jealous care,
For ever standing on its guard,
And watching unto prayer.

O THOU who art without variableness or shadow of turning, we thank thee that thou needest not our poor prayers to teach thee of our need, to quicken thy mercy or to win thy love. Thou dost anticipate our needs before we call, and doest more and better for us than we can even ask or think. Thou dost adorn the summer and cheer the winter with thy presence; thou foldest in thine arms all the worlds which thou hast made, and warmest with thy breath every mote that peoples the sun's beams, and dost bless every wandering, erring child of man. Give us the joy of knowing thee, and feeling the breath of thy Spirit upon us. May we know the sweet delight of daily serving thee, the infinite blessedness of becoming true children of God. Amen.

MARCH 13.

JESUS saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

O THOU, to whom, in ancient time,
The lyre of Hebrew bards was strung;
Whom kings adored in songs sublime,
And prophets praised with glowing tongue:

Not now on Zion's height alone
Thy favored worshippers may dwell;
Nor where, at sultry noon, thy Son
Sat weary, by the Patriarch's well.

From every place below the skies,
The grateful song, the fervent prayer, —
The incense of the heart, — may rise
To heaven, and find acceptance there.

To thee shall age, with snowy hair,
And strength, and beauty, bend the knee;
And childhood lisp, with reverent air,
Its praises and its prayers to thee!

O GOD, unsearchable: why are we so blind to thee, who besettest us behind and before? In the daylight of thy constant mercy, we scarcely lift our eye to the infinite heaven whence it flows. Now screen us with thy hand, O Lord, that we may not wait for the night of sorrow; but here, under the shade of holy thought, may learn in what a world we live. Here let us rest from the weary shows of life, and converse with thee, the Only True. And though thou receivest higher praise than ours, from natures that know thee more and serve thee better, yet tune our spirits and join our voices with theirs; and unite us with the faithful and saintly, there and here, in one light of faith, one beauty of holiness, one repose on thee. Amen.

MARCH 14.

AND he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

THY will be done! In devious way
The hurrying stream of life may run;
Yet still our grateful hearts shall say,
Thy will be done!

Thy will be done! If o'er us shine
A gladdening and a prosperous sun,
This prayer shall make it more divine, —
Thy will be done!

Thy will be done! Though shrouded o'er
Our path with gloom, one comfort, one,
Is ours, — to breathe, while we adore,
Thy will be done!

O LORD, we offer ourselves entirely to thee. Do with us as seemeth to thee best. We will cheerfully accept whatever thou shalt appoint, for it cannot be any thing but good. To all who may be ordained to suffer for thy sake, impart, O merciful God, such plentiful succor of thy Holy Spirit, pour into their hearts such contempt of pain and death, kindle within them such love of thee and zeal for thy truth, fill them with such an animating hope of immortality, give them so much of the spirit of him who died on the cross, that, after the example of the blessed saints and martyrs of the primitive ages, they may steadfastly confess thee before men, and, having by their sufferings glorified thy name upon earth, may attain the everlasting crown of righteousness in thy kingdom, with him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

MARCH 15.

OUT of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice ; let thine ear be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand ?

But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord : for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

OH, is there a thought in the wide world so sweet,
As that God has so cared for us, bad as we are, —
That he thinks of us, plans for us, stoops to entreat,
And follows us, wander we ever so far ?

Then how can the heart e'er be drooping or sad,
Which God hath once touched with the light of his grace ?
Can the child have a doubt who but lately hath laid
Himself to repose in the Father's embrace ?

And is it not wonderful, servant of God,
That he should have honored us so with his love, —
That the sorrows of life should but shorten the road
Which leads to himself and the mansion above ?

THOU unseen, but ever-present Spirit, whose penetrating sight no thought eludes nor act escapes : the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Thou seest the inmost thought and purpose of every soul. Thou art acquainted with all our ways, and there is not a word in our tongues, but lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. May we remember that thou art ever with us on our right hand and left, besetting us behind and before, and that thy grace is sufficient for every need. May we know that no sin is overlooked, no virtue unrewarded, no true prayer unheard. Oh, search thou our hearts and try our thoughts, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

MARCH 16.

INCLINE thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding.

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding ;

If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures ;

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord giveth wisdom : out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

LORD, in heaven, thy dwelling-place,
Hear the praises of our race,
And, while hearing, let thy grace
Dews of sweet forgiveness pour ;
While we know, benignant King,
That the praises which we bring
Are a feeble offering,
Till Thy blessing makes it more.

More of truth, and more of might,
More of love, and more of light,
More of reason, and of right,
From Thy pardoning grace be given !
This can make the humblest song
Sweet, acceptable, and strong,
As the strains the angels' throng
Pour around the throne of heaven.

O LORD God, be thou to us a rock of strength, and let us love nothing, and trust nothing, in comparison with thee. Grant us the spirit of soberness to guard our ways ; to avoid the beginnings of evil ; to be temperate and pure ; to conquer evil and cleave to the good ; to make all our senses good servants, and not evil masters ; to give ourselves to prayer and duty, and study repentance next to innocence : and may thy holy providence fence round our paths, that we fall not into the power of sin, and keep us ever walking faithfully in thy service and the way of thy law. The Lord hear us in all time of our need, and watch over us, and give us peace. Amen.

MARCH 17.

TEACH me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes ; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law ; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments ; for therein do I delight.

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity ; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.

Turn away my reproach which I fear : for thy judgments are good.

Behold, I have longed after thy precepts : quicken me in thy righteousness.

ON our parched souls pour thou, O Lord,
The freshness of thy grace :
So penitence shall spring anew,
And all the past efface.

Grant us to fear thy holy law,
To feel thy goodness nigh ;
Grant us through life thy peace, in death
Thine immortality.

WE praise and thank thee, O God, for all thy faithful servants who have departed this life : mercifully grant, we beseech thee, that we, being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us ; looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. O Lord, bless all thy people, and may the kingdom of thy Son increase and shine throughout the world ; and everywhere may the song of angels be heard, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good-will among men." Amen.

MARCH 18.

THEN shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world :

For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat : I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink : I was a stranger, and ye took me in :

Naked, and ye clothed me : I was sick, and ye visited me : I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee a hungered, and fed thee ? or thirsty, and gave thee drink ?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in ? or naked, and clothed thee ?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee ?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

ONE cup of healing oil and wine,
One tear-drop shed on mercy's shrine,
Is thrice more grateful, Lord, to Thee,
Than lifted eye or bended knee.

In true and genuine faith we trace
The source of every Christian grace ;
Within the pious heart it plays,
A living fount of joy and praise.

Kind deeds of peace and love betray
Where'er the stream has found its way ;
But where these spring not rich and fair,
The stream has never wandered there.

O HOLY and ever-blessed God, teach us to love one another with pure hearts fervently ; to exercise forbearance and forgiveness toward our enemies ; to recompense no man evil for evil, but to be merciful as thou, Father in heaven, art merciful ; that in the spirit of thy Son Jesus Christ we may follow after thee as dear children. Amen.

MARCH 19.

AND, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

THE world is wise for the world is old;
Five thousand years their tale have told:
Yet the world is not happy, as the world might be, —
Why is it? why is it? Oh, answer me!

The world is kind if we ask not too much;
It is sweet to the taste and smooth to the touch:
Yet the world is not happy as the world might be, —
Why is it? why is it? Oh, answer me!

What lackest thou, world? for God made thee of old;
Why — thy faith hath gone out, and thy love grown cold:
Thou art not happy, as thou mightest be,
For the want of Christ's simplicity.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who didst send thy Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved: have mercy upon us. O God, our heavenly Father, who by thy Son callest the wanderers home, who by thy Holy Spirit dost comfort, direct, and sanctify the hearts of thy faithful servants: have mercy upon us. Remember not, Lord, our offences: spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, for thy great love to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

MARCH 20.

AS Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up :

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world ; but that the world through him might be saved.

JESUS shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run ;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

For him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head ;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns,
The prisoner leaps to loose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

HEAVENLY Father, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst send him into the world that the world through him might be saved: we thank thee for the inestimable blessings which he lived and died to give us ; for his manifestations of thy love and paternal care ; for his holy example ; for his revelations of thy will, and for his promise of eternal life. Assist us by thy Holy Spirit, O God, so to repent of our sins, that we may depart from every evil way, in thought, word, and deed. Give us humble and contrite hearts, and assist us worthily to follow him whose life was perfect obedience and perfect love. And enable us in all that we do to glorify thy name. Amen.

MARCH 21.

HE that believeth on him is not condemned ; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

SPIRIT of truth ! who makest bright
All souls that long for heavenly light,
Appear, and on my darkness shine ;
Descend, and be my guide divine.

O tender Spirit ! who dost mourn
Whene'er thy people from thee turn,
Give me each day to grieve thee less, —
Enjoy my fuller faithfulness ;

Till thou shalt make me meet to bear
The sweetness of heaven's holy air,
The light wherein no darkness is,
The eternal, overflowing bliss.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind : we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men ; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. We pray for the good estate of the Church Universal ; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. We commend to thy Fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate ; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH 22.

TAKE heed that ye despise not one of these little ones ; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

How think ye ? if a man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray ?

And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

COME, said Jesus' sacred voice,
Come and make my paths your choice ;
I will guide you to your home ;
Weary pilgrim ! hither come.

Thou who, houseless, sole, forlorn,
Long hast borne the proud world's scorn,
Long hast roamed the barren waste,
Weary pilgrim ! hither haste.

FATHER of mercies, we give thee thanks for thy loving-kindness to us and all men. Created in thine own image, capable of knowing good and evil, thou hast granted us the high calling of children of the most High. Fill us with thy gracious Spirit, lead us with thy hand, and make us worthy of our divine privilege. May falsehood and deceit have no place in our words or deeds. In temptation may thy good Spirit keep us from falling. May we obey thy commands, be holy in thy sight, obtain thy favor, and find entrance to thy nearer presence and everlasting kingdom. Amen.

MARCH 23.

AND Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few ;

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

How sweetly flowed the gospel's sound
From lips of gentleness and grace,
When listening thousands gathered round,
And joy and reverence filled the place.

From heaven he came, of heaven he spoke,
To heaven he led his followers' way ;
Dark clouds of gloomy night he broke,
Unveiling an immortal day.

"Come, wanderers, to my Father's home,
Come, all ye weary ones, and rest !"
Yes, sacred Teacher, we will come,
Obey thee, love thee, and be blest.

O GOD, Fountain of mercy, dispose us, we beseech thee, to the love and practice of kindness and mercy, that we may have a tender fellow-feeling for the afflictions of our brethren ; and may apply ourselves cheerfully to strengthen them in all goodness, to relieve their miseries, to supply their wants, and to comfort their sorrows. Oh may we be ever ready to assist the oppressed, to right the injured, to sustain the afflicted, to pardon them that have offended us, to render good for evil, to honor all men. Give us grace to imitate those who live well, and to beware of them that do ill ; make us patient in adversity, and moderate in prosperity. Set a watch before our mouths, and keep the door of our lips ; and let our affections be fixed on heaven and heavenly things. Amen.

MARCH 24.

IS not God in the height of heaven? And behold the height of the stars, how high they are!

Acquaint now thyself with him and be at peace: thereby good shall come to thee.

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth: and lay up his words in thine heart. For then thou shalt have delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

ACQUAINT thee, O spirit, acquaint thee with God,
And joy, like the sunshine, shall beam on thy road;
And peace, like the dew, shall descend round thy head,
And sleep, like an angel, shall visit thy bed.

Acquaint thee, O spirit, acquaint thee with God,
And he shall be with thee when fears are abroad;
Thy safeguard in danger that threatens thy path,
Thy joy in the valley and shadow of death.

O THOU who art infinite perfection, we thank thee for thyself: out of thy power, thy wisdom, thy justice, and thy love have flowed forth this world of matter and this world of man, and that kingdom of heaven whereinto we all hope to enter at the last. We thank thee for thy loving-kindness and thy tender mercy, which are over all thy works; and, when we cannot see save through a glass darkly, we will still trust thee with infinite longing that casteth out every fear. Father in heaven, we pray thee that we may live noble lives on earth, unfolding our nature day by day, growing wiser and better as we change time into life, and daily work into exalted character. So may we live that every day we may learn some new truth, practise some new virtue, and become dearer and more beautiful in thine own sight. So may thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

MARCH 25.

I WILL lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved ; he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper ; the Lord is thy shade upon the right hand ; the sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall guard thee from all evil ; he shall preserve thy soul ; the Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth, and even for evermore.

OMNIPOTENCE is on your side,
And wisdom watches o'er your heads,
And God himself will be your guide,
So ye but follow where he leads ;
How many, guided by his hand,
Have reached ere now their native land :
Press on !

HEAVENLY Father, shed abroad thy love in our hearts, that we may love thee above all things, and our neighbor as ourselves, and by that charity which never faileth be abundantly refreshed in our toils and sufferings. Bless all those who are called to the ministry of thy gospel ; grant them great gifts, and great holiness, and may they be fruitful branches of the true vine. Remember, O God, all those who bear good fruits and do good works in thy vineyard. Remember all who are in authority : enlighten and guide them ; and so dispose and order the affairs of this nation, that righteousness and truth may prevail ; and that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Amen.

MARCH 26.

CALL no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ;

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

To thee and to thy love,
For help, O Lord, I flee;
In thy great might I must prevail;
O Lord, deliver me.

It is not strength that wins:
My weakness is my shield;
In lowly trust we fight the fight,
And meekness wins the field.

Give me the lowly heart;
Cast out each thought of pride;
Let Gentleness and Love come in,
And as my guests abide.

Thy will, not mine, be done;
I would not choose my own;
But let me ever, ever be
Thy servant, Lord, alone.

LORD of heaven and earth, thy loving-kindness is constant and infinite. Thou hast guarded us from danger, and strengthened us in our weakness. Thou hast led us with kind and fatherly guidance, and made us glad with unnumbered gifts and favors. Forgive our ingratitude and disobedience. With penitence and godly sorrow may we turn from sin, and surrender our souls anew to thy guidance, and spend the days to come in loyal and loving service. Prepare us for the duties of the day, and for thy summons, when it shall come, to enter thy nearer presence. To-day and for ever may we live in thy holy keeping. Amen.

MARCH 27.

HE that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me : and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

He that findeth his life shall lose it : and he that loseth his life for my sake, shall find it.

Not yet I love my God
With undivided heart ;
Not yet I tread the heavenly road
With feet that ne'er depart.

Not yet is all thy will
Sweet to this heart of mine ;
Not yet I hasten to fulfil
Each dear command of thine.

But shall I not one day,
My God, be all thine own ;
Rejoicing, all thy will obey,
And do thy works alone ?

GOD of all goodness and love, we most humbly beseech thee to give us wisdom from above, that we may glorify thee and adore thy ways, which are in the great deep, and past searching out. Teach us to submit to thy providence in all things ; to be content in all changes of person and condition ; to be temperate in prosperity, and to read our duty in the lines of thy mercy ; and in adversity to be meek, patient, and resigned ; to look through the cloud, that we may wait for the consolation of the Lord and for the day of redemption ; in the mean while doing our duty with an unwearied diligence and an undisturbed resolution, having no fondness for the vanities of this world, but laying up our hopes in heaven, and being strengthened with might by thy Spirit in the inner man, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH 28.

WHO hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

O HOLY Father, just and true
Are all thy works and words and ways,
And unto thee alone are due
Thanksgiving and eternal praise!
As children of thy gracious care,
We veil the eye, we bend the knee,
With broken words of praise and prayer,
Father and God we come to thee.

SOVEREIGN of earth and air and skies, all thy creatures great and small bow in homage before thee, waiting for thy commands that they may execute thy will. We, too, join in the general chorus, and offer thee our hymns of praise. We, too, wait for thy commands, and would execute thy will. Before thee the nations are but as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; yet thou dost not despise the day of small things, for we are still thy children and the objects of thy care. Give us of thy grace that we may be truly wise. Thy will would we make our law. May we live in thy fear and serve thee in love, and be built up of thee in all things good and holy. Amen.

MARCH 29.

ENTER not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

My son, attend to my words ; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

Let them not depart from thine eyes ; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Keep thy heart with all diligence ; for out of it are the issues of life.

Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

HAVE mercy, O Father !
To thee do we cry ;
Faint, weary, and wayworn,
To thy wings we fly :
Speak peace to our souls,
Without thee we die.

We wander in darkness,
Oh, grant us thy light ;
We stray from the pathway,
Lost, lost in the night :
Oh, be thou our Guide,
And lead us aright.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who makest us both to will and to do those things that be good and acceptable unto thy divine majesty : we would offer our humble supplications unto thee that we thy servants may be enabled to fulfil our duties as disciples of Jesus Christ and children of the Most High. Let thy Fatherly hand ever be over us ; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with us ; guide and help, strengthen and sanctify us, we beseech thee : that by the living bond of obedience and charity we may be united to thee and thy beloved Son. Amen.

MARCH 30.

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

WHAT thou shalt to-day provide,
Let me as a child receive ;
What to-morrow may betide,
Calmly to thy wisdom leave :
'Tis enough that thou wilt care ;
Why should I the burden bear ?

As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own ;
Knows he 's neither strong nor wise,
Fears to stir a step alone ;
Let me thus with thee abide,
As my Father, Guard, and Guide !

ALMIGHTY God, may thy kingdom be advanced in all hearts, this day. May the truth as it is in Jesus be everywhere faithfully proclaimed, and received into good and honest minds, where it shall spring up and bear the immortal fruits of holy living. Send its blessed consolations into afflicted souls ; and let it bind up the broken-hearted, and give liberty to the captive. Fill all hearts with the joy and gladness of thy presence ; and let thy will be done by men on earth as it is by angels in heaven : and to thee shall be the glory for ever. Amen.

MARCH 31.

LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is ; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand-breadth ; and mine age is as nothing before thee : verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

Surely every man walketh like a shadow : surely he disquieteth himself in vain : he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

What, then, O Lord, is my hope ? My hope is in thee.

Deliver me from all my unrighteousness : make me not the reproach of the impious. I am dumb, I open not my mouth ; because thou hast done it. Remove thy stroke away from me : I perish by the blow of thine hand. When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou consumeest his beauty like a moth : surely every man is vanity.

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry ; hold not thy peace at my tears : for I am a stranger with thee and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

O, spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.

BRIEF life is here our portion,
Brief sorrow, short-lived care ;
The life that knows no ending,
The tearless life is there.
Reward of grace how wondrous !
Short toil — eternal rest ! —
Oh, miracle of mercy !
That we should be so blest !

O LORD most high, with thy whole Church throughout the world we especially give thanks to thee for all thy saints departed ; and for the hope of future joy in the resurrection of the just. Oh, let the cloud of witnesses, the innumerable company of those who have gone before and entered into rest, be to us an example of godly life ; even now may we rejoice in their happiness ; and with patience may we so run the race that is set before us, as to have an entrance administered abundantly into thy heavenly presence, to be united with them and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

APRIL 1.

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us ; and cause his face to shine upon us ;

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God ; let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy : for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God ; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase ; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us ; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

O YE of fearful hearts, be strong !
Your downcast eyes and hands lift up,
Doubt not, nor cry, "O God, how long !"
Hope to the end, in patience hope !
Oh, never from your faith remove ;
Ye cannot fail, for God is love !

Lord, we have faith ; we wait the hour
Which to the earth thy kingdom brings ;
When thou, in love and joy and power,
Shalt come and make us priests and kings ;
When man shall be indeed thy son,
And thy pure will on earth be done.

WE do not presume to come to the table of thy daily bounty, O merciful Father, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for our past sins. But, O Lord God, thy mercy endureth for ever. Grant us therefore so to partake of the blessings of thy good providence, that by faith in thee our souls may be purified from all evil, and that we may evermore dwell in thee, and thy Holy Spirit may dwell in us. Amen.

APRIL 2.

BUT after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God ;

Who will render to every man according to his deeds :

To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life :

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath :

Tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil ; of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile ;

But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good ; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile :

For there is no respect of persons with God.

SING to the Lord a new, glad song !
He comes to overthrow all wrong ;
Ye weary, lift your heads and sing !
Justice on earth he comes to bring.

Deep are his counsels and unknown,
But love and truth support his throne ;
Though darkest clouds his ways surround,
Justice is their eternal ground.

In awful beauty he appears :
The evil-doer shrinks and fears ;
The righteous lifts his joyful song, —
“He comes, he comes to right all wrong.”

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, we thank thee that in thine own good time thou didst send thy beloved Son to proclaim thy truth and will, to publish good tidings of great joy to all souls, and to seek the wandering and lead them home. Filled with thy Spirit, he reconciles thy rebellious children to thy most holy law. Permitted as we are to know his gospel, and to feel the inspiration of his blessed life, may we have grace so to follow in his footsteps that our hearts may be purified and regenerate, and may be freed from the power of sin and death. Hasten the time, O God, when before thy majesty every knee shall bow, and every heart confess thee to be the King eternal. Amen.

APRIL 3.

TAKE heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them : otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth :

That thine alms may be in secret : and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

GRACIOUS Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would gracious be,
And, with words that help and heal,
Would thy life in mine reveal ;
And with actions bold and meek
Christ's own gracious spirit speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would truthful be,
And with wisdom kind and clear
Let thy life in mine appear ;
And with actions brotherly
Follow Christ's sincerity.

Tender Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would tender be ;
Shut my heart up like a flower
At temptation's darksome hour ;
Open it when shines the sun,
And his love by fragrance own.

O GOD, who givest us the day for labor, and the night for rest : grant, we beseech thee, that this day may be profitable to us in heavenly things, and refresh and strengthen us to finish the work which thou hast given us to do. O blessed God, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, take us into thy gracious keeping for the coming night ; and make us mindful of that night when the noise of this busy world shall be heard by us no more. O Lord in whom we trust, help us by thy grace so to live that we may never be afraid to die, and grant that at the last our even-song may be : I will lay me down in peace and sleep, for thou, Lord, makest me dwell in safety. Amen.

APRIL 4.

CREATE in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt-offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

FATHER, to us thy children, humbly kneeling,
Conscious of weakness, ignorance, sin, and shame,
Give such a force of holy thought and feeling,
That we may live to glorify thy name:

That we may conquer base desire and passion,
That we may rise from selfish thought and will,
O'ercome the world's allurements, threat, and fashion,
Walk humbly, gently, leaning on thee still.

Let all thy goodness by our minds be seen,
Let all thy mercy on our souls be sealed,
Lord, if thou wilt, thy power can make us clean,
Oh, speak the word! thy servants shall be healed.

WE bless thee, O God, for this new day and for all thy bounties that enrich it. For the inspiration with which thou seekest the souls of thy children of every age and clime we thank thee; for the gift of the good and wise and faithful ones that have blessed the world and made it better; for the blessing of thy chosen ones who have taught us of heaven and thee; for every throb of gladness that thrills our being; for the joys which kindle our gratitude; for the warnings of conscience and the remorse that turns us from sin; for all thy myriad gifts, and most of all for the dearest joy of all, that with mind and heart we may know that thou art good, and love and serve thee for ever, as our Father and best Friend, in time and eternity. Amen.

APRIL 5.

THESE six things doth the Lord hate ; yea, seven are an abomination unto him :

A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother : Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

When thou goest, it shall lead thee ; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee ; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp ; and the law is light ; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

VAINLY I strive through the darkness to see
The path I must travel, 'tis hidden from me ;
Halting, despairingly, kneeling, I say,
'Father, I cannot go ; there is no way.'

Lo ! as I kneel at his feet humbly bowed,
My pathway is shown through a break in the cloud, —
No road stretching far, the horizon to meet,
Only one step, lying close at my feet.

Place my feet in it, O Father above !
Teach me to trust in thy infinite love !
The way that is hidden from me still thou knowest,
Make me content with the step that thou showest.

O GOD, who art the fountain of all holiness, grant unto thy servants grace to obey thy blessed will in all virtuous and godly living ; that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for them that love thee and keep thy commandments. O Lord, who art King of all the earth, and Father of mankind : now of thine infinite goodness accept the offerings which with a free and joyful heart we bring to thee ; and do thou grant that the blessings thou mayest vouchsafe to us may be devoted to thy service and the welfare of thy people, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

APRIL 6.

THERE is none holy as the Lord : for there is none besides thee : neither is there any rock like our God.

The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

The Lord killeth, and maketh alive : he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich : he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory : for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints.

When I awake I am still with thee.

STILL with thee, O my God,
I would desire to be :
By day, by night, at home, abroad,
I would be still with thee, —
With thee, when day is done,
And evening calms the mind ;
The setting as the rising sun
With thee my heart would find, —
With thee, in thee by faith,
Abiding would I be ;
By day, by night, in life, in death,
I would be still with thee.

WE invoke thy presence, O thou at whose word the sun ariseth and man goeth forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. We ask thy blessing. Without thee we can do nothing. With thee we can have nothing to fear. Thou art all in all. For every step that we take, for every breath that we draw, strength cometh from thee. Thy favor is life, and thy loving-kindness is better than life. For every duty may we be strengthened by the thought of thy presence. Lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Wherever we go, let thy voice be heard, and thy peace cause all around and within to shine with the brightness of heaven. Amen.

APRIL 7.

THE kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field ; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant-man, seeking goodly pearls :

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind :

Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

IF on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still of countless price
God will provide for sacrifice.

As, for some dear familiar strain,
Untired, we ask and ask again,
Ever in its melodious store
Finding a spell, unheard before ;

Such is the bliss of souls serene,
When they have sworn and steadfast mean,
Counting the cost, in all to espy
Their God, in all themselves deny.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast taught us that, without true regeneration of heart and purity of life, no man can enter into thy heavenly kingdom : we beseech thee to grant us the baptism of thy good Spirit, and that sanctification of our bodies and souls by which we become heirs of eternal life. Send down upon us all saving influences, and quicken within us a new faith and purpose, that we may have strength faithfully to keep our promises and perform our best vows. Strengthen us in the hour of temptation ; encourage us in all times of trial and difficulty ; establish us in every good word and work ; and so conduct us through this life that we may enter evermore thy kingdom of peace and love. Amen.

APRIL 8.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness : according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions ; and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight ; so that thou art justified when thou speakest, and upright when thou judgest.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward heart : teach me, therefore, wisdom in my inmost soul.

Purge me with hyssop, until I be clean : wash me, until I be whiter than snow. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

LOVE for all ! and can it be ?
Can I hope it is for me ?
I, who strayed so long ago,
Strayed so far, and fell so low !

I the disobedient child,
Wayward, passionate, and wild ;
I who left my father's home,
In forbidden ways to roam !

To my Father can I go, —
At his feet myself I'll throw ;
In his house there yet may be
Place, a servant's place, for me.

See ! my Father waiting stands ;
See ! he reaches out his hands ;
God is love ! I know, I see,
There is love for me, e'en me !

O GOD, that despisest not the sighing of a broken heart, nor the desire of the sorrowful : mercifully answer our prayers that we make before thee in all our trouble, trial, and sorrow, whencesoever they come upon us ; and for the glory of thy holy name turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved ; and grant, that in all anxiety, sickness, or weakness, we may put our whole trust in thy kindness and faithfulness, and ever serve thee in holiness, patience, and pureness of living ; to thy honor and glory, through thy grace quickening and thy truth upholding us for ever. Amen.

APRIL 9.

I THEREFORE beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love ;

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling ;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

COME to me, thoughts of heaven !

My fainting spirit bear

On your bright wings, by morning given,

Up to celestial air.

Away, far, far away,

From thoughts by passion given,

Fold me in pure, still, cloudless day,

O blessed thoughts of heaven !

Come in my tempted hour,

Sweet thoughts ! and yet again

O'er sinful wish and memory shower

Your soft effacing rain.

Waft me where gales divine

With dark clouds ne'er have striven ;

Where living founts for ever shine :

O blessed thoughts of heaven !

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace ; give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by unhappy divisions and unbrotherly strife. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord ; that, as there is but one body and one spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul ; and, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, may glorify thy blessed name for ever and ever. Amen.

APRIL 10.

PONDER the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.

WEAK and irresolute is man;
The purpose of to-day,
Woven with pains into his plan,
To-morrow rends away;
Some foe to his upright intent,
Finds out his weaker part;
Virtue engages his assent,
But pleasure wins his heart.

Bound on a voyage of awful length
And dangers little known,
A stranger to superior strength,
Man vainly trusts his own.
But oars alone can ne'er prevail
To reach the distant coast:
The breath of heaven must swell the sail,
Or all the toil is lost.

O GOD, who givest understanding to man, and instructest him out of thy law: grant unto us, thy servants, such knowledge as may best enable us to do good, and a sincere disposition to improve the knowledge we possess. Suffer us not, we beseech thee, to be drawn aside from our obedience to thy laws, by the love of pleasure, of riches, or of fame. Deliver us from irregular desires, vain hopes, and foolish fears: and prepare us by innocence and purity of manners, and a steadfast faith in thee, for all the events of this mortal life, and for our departure out of this world. By the constant exercise of piety, righteousness, and mercy; by meekness, patience, and moderation; by truth and fidelity, candor and charity; by an humble, resigned, and contented spirit,—may we become fitted for the society of the just made perfect in thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

APRIL 11.

ART thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One? We shall not die.

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Behold, the soul of him that is puffed up shall not be at ease; but the just shall live by his faith.

I LOOK to thee in every need,
And never look in vain;
I feel thy strong and tender love,
And all is well again;
The thought of thee is mightier far
Than sin and pain and sorrow are.

Discouraged in the work of life,
Disheartened by its load,
Shamed by its failures or its fears,
I sink beside the road;—
But let me only think of thee,
And then new heart springs up in me.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, we beseech thee that it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments; that it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace, to hear meekly thy word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit; that it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived; that it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand, and to comfort and help the weak-hearted, and to raise up them that fall, and finally to give us the victory over temptation. Amen.

APRIL 12.

HEAR, O Lord, when I cry with my voice : have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face ; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not thy face far from me ; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord : be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart : wait, I say, on the Lord.

COMETH sunshine after rain,
After mourning joy again,
After heavy bitter grief
Dawneth surely sweet relief ;
And my soul, who from her height
Sank to realms of woe and night,
Wingeth now to heaven her flight.

Though to-day may not fulfil
All thy hopes, have patience still ;
For perchance to-morrow's sun
Sees thy happier days begun.
As God willeth march the hours,
Bringing joy at last in showers,
And whate'er we asked is ours.

MAKE us, O our Father, daily sensible of our dependence on thee, and of our inward wants, destitution, and weakness. Lay open to us our corrupt motives. Expose to us our hidden vices, in all their depravity. Teach us to look steadily into ourselves, till we shall see, with something of thine own abhorrence, every evil affection. Lead us away from false resources to a sure dependence on thy perfect will, and may this reign supreme within us. Help us to look through the disguises of self-love, to judge ourselves truly, to anticipate the revelations of the last day ; and let not this knowledge of our deficiencies and deformities fill us with dejection, but rather endear us to thy mercy, and lead us to thy grace, while rousing us to vigilance and to firm and faithful conflict with every irregular

APRIL 13.

THE Lord called Samuel ; and he answered, Here am I. Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him.

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I ; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down : and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord ; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel ! Samuel ! Then Samuel answered, Speak ; for thy servant heareth.

HUSHED was the evening hymn,
The temple courts were dark,
The lamp was burning dim
Before the sacred ark,
When suddenly a voice divine
Rang through the silence of the shrine.

The old man, meek and mild,
The priest of Israel, slept ;
His watch the temple-child,
The little Levite, kept ;
And what from Eli's sense was sealed,
The Lord to Hannah's son revealed.

Oh give me Samuel's ear,
The open ear, O Lord !
Alive and quick to hear
Each whisper of thy word :
Like him to answer at thy call,
And to obey thee first of all.

O BLESSED God, may we endeavor to profit by thy divine instructions, by which we know that this world is only given as a preparation for heaven : and that we must here school our tempers to the charity and benevolence of thy kingdom of holy peace, where no feelings of hatred, anger, or pride can ever be admitted. O Lord, may we earnestly endeavor to obtain here such dispositions as may fit us for the company of the blessed in paradise, and of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APRIL 14.

AND Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision.

Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

And he said, What is the thing that the Lord hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good. And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Oh give me Samuel's heart, —
A lowly heart that waits
Where in thy house thou art,
Or watches at thy gates;
By day and night, a heart that still
Moves at the breathing of thy will.

Oh give me Samuel's mind, —
A sweet un murmuring faith,
Obedient and resigned
To thee in life and death;
That I may read with childlike eyes
Truths that are hidden from the wise.

O LORD, how marvellous is thy loving-kindness and tender mercy, which thou spreadest out over nature and beast and man. In loving-kindness hast thou made all things; and in tender mercy thou watchest over the wanderings of the world, blessing those that sorrow, and recalling such as go astray. Oh, whither can we flee from thy presence? If we take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead us, and thy right hand hold us. Yea, Lord, our transgression hideth us not from thee; but thine eye seeth in sin as in righteousness, in the night as in the day; and when our hearts cry out against us, wilt thou, who art greater than our heart, still take us up, bear us on thy wings, and bless us with thine infinite love? Amen.

APRIL 15.

GIVE ear to my prayer, O God ; and hide not thyself from my supplication.

Attend unto me, and hear me :

My heart is sore pained within me : and the terrors of death are fallen upon me.

And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove ! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

As for me, I will call upon God ; and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud : and he shall hear my voice.

He hath delivered my soul in peace.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee : he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

O FATHER, as thou wilt,
O may thy will be mine !
Into thy hand of love
I would my all resign.
Through sorrow, or through joy,
Conduct me as thine own ;
And help me still to say,
Thy will, O Lord, be done.

O Father, as thou wilt,
All shall be well for me ;
Each changing future scene
I gladly trust with thee.
Straight to my home above
I travel calmly on,
And sing in life or death,
My Lord ! thy will be done.

O HEAVENLY Father, Fountain of all goodness : we beseech thee to show thy mercies upon us, thy children, and sanctify the gifts we receive from thy bountiful hands. Grant us grace to use them soberly and purely, according to thy blessed will. May we acknowledge thee to be the Author and Giver of all good things ; and, above all, may we continually seek those spiritual blessings wherewith our souls may be nourished unto everlasting life. Amen.

APRIL 16.

WHEREWITHAL shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

THE trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask:
Room to deny ourselves; a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

Seek we no more; content with these,
Let present rapture, comfort, ease,
As heaven shall bid them, come and go:
The secret this of rest below.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended in every hour of danger may pass our time in rest and quietness. Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of the day and the night. Amen.

APRIL 17.

HE saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am ?
And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona : for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church ; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven : and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven : and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

O THOU who hast at thy command
The hearts of all men in thy hand !
Our wayward, erring hearts incline
To know no other will but thine.

Our wishes, our desires, control ;
Mould every purpose of the soul ;
O'er all may we victorious be
That stands between ourselves and thee.

Thrice blest will all our blessings be,
When we can look through them to thee ;
When each glad heart its tribute pays
Of love and gratitude and praise.

HOLY and merciful Lord God, who multiplieth upon us the gifts of thy heavenly grace : grant that in the spirit of thy best beloved Son we may be enabled to bear our crosses, and that by his resurrection we may have good hope of a happy end to our earthly pilgrimage. Almighty God, who hast given thy Son our Saviour both to save us from sin and to be unto us an ensample of godly life : give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life. Amen.

THE Lord is my shepherd ; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures : he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul : he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me ; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

OH, send me not away ! for I would drink,
Even I, the weakest, at the fount of life ;
Chide not my steps, that venture near the brink,
Weary and fainting from the deadly strife.

Went I not forth undaunted and alone,
Strong in the majesty of human might ?
Lo ! I return, all wounded and forlorn,
My dream of glory lost in shades of night.

Was I not girded for the battle-field ?
Bore I not helm of pride and glittering sword ?
Behold the fragments of my broken shield,
And lend to me thy heavenly armor, Lord !

FATHER, we thank thee for thy constant care, and would submit ourselves to thy holy guidance. Since thou givest us continued life, may we day by day attain life's true end. We ask thine aid, that we may walk in the way of thy commandments. Keep us in thy faith and love. Prepare us for the changes of our mortal life. Let not prosperity make us unmindful of thee, or corrupt our integrity. Keep our conscience void of offence. Teach us to feel the uncertainty of life, and the value of every hour ; may each passing day witness some progress in the way of wisdom ; and, when our days on earth are ended, may we enter thy nearer presence to render thee higher service Amen.

APRIL 19.

AS the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

The Lord will command his loving-kindness in the day-time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

OFT have I walked the woodland paths
Without the blest foreknowing
That, underneath the withered leaves,
The fairest buds were growing.
To-day the south wind sweeps away
The types of autumn's splendor,
And shows the sweet arbutus flowers,
Spring's children pure and tender.

O prophet souls, with lips of bloom
Outvying in their beauty
The pearly tints of ocean shells!
Ye teach me faith and duty.
Walk life's dark ways, ye seem to say,
With love's divine foreknowing
That, where man sees but withered leaves,
God sees the sweet flowers growing.

HEAVENLY Father, we beseech thee to guide us by day, and watch over us by night, and preserve us from all harm. In the duty of the day strengthen and sustain us; and, in the night of affliction and trouble, may we look up unto thee, and be comforted with the assurance that thou wilt hereafter wipe away all tears from our eyes. And when we come to the dark valley of the shadow of death, be thou our guide and comforter, and bring us to the regions of endless day. O God, we commit ourselves entirely to thy disposal; and, whether we enjoy or suffer, whether we live or die, may we be mercifully accepted as thy children, and disciples of thy son Jesus Christ. Amen.

APRIL 20.

HOW can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

GREAT God ! create my soul anew,
Conform my heart to thine ;
Melt down my will, and let it flow
And take the mould divine.

Then not the sun shall more, than I
His Maker's law perform ;
Nor travel swifter through the sky,
Nor with a zeal so warm.

O THOU, whose goodness brings life out of mystery, we would commit our souls unto thee as an ever-faithful friend. Since we are the children of thy love, may we live as thy children by loving hearts and lives. Help us to serve thee faithfully in patience and humility and in hatred of all sin ; to crucify the beginnings of evil, by mortifying pride, and burying evil thoughts in good works. So let us be quickened in newness of life, set our hearts on things holy and pure, and judge ourselves ere we be judged. May thy Spirit breathe into our souls fresh life, and thy truth speak to us, and thy providence grant us a portion among the holy and upright persons who form thy Church everywhere. With all such let us have a fellowship of the Spirit, and, when it may be, a fellowship of worship and toil. May we be of those who watch or strive in behalf of the good and true, who to faith add virtue, and to virtue temperance,—who hold a steadfast hope amidst knowledge of truth, and have the peace of God which passes understanding. Amen.

APRIL 21.

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God ; which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world : but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think ; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office :

So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

GRANT us a body pure within,
A wakeful heart, a ready will ;
Grant us by no deep cherished sin
The fervor of the soul to chill.

Fill thou our souls, Redeemer true !
With thy most pure celestial ray ;
So may we walk in safety through
All the temptations of this day.

O THOU whose eye is over all the children of men, and who hast called them, by thy Prince of peace, into a kingdom not of this world : send forth his spirit speedily into the dark places of our guilt and woe, and arm it with the piercing power of thy grace. May it reach the heart of every oppression, and make arrogancy dumb before thee. Let it still the noise of our strife and the tumult of the people ; put to shame the false idols of every mind ; carry faith to the doubting, hope to the fearful, strength to the weak, light to the mourner ; and more and more increase the pure in heart who see their God. Commit thy word, O Lord, to the lips of faithful men, or the free winds of thine invisible providence ; that soon the knowledge of thee may cover the earth, as the waters cover the channels of the deep. And so let thy kingdom come, through Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

APRIL 22.

FOR none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord ; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord : whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ.

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

So, then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

LIVING or dying, Lord, I would be thine !

Oh what is life ? a toil, a strife,
Were it not lighted by thy love divine.

I ask not wealth, I crave not health :
Living or dying, Lord, I would be thine !

Living or dying, Lord, I would be thine !

Throughout my days be constant praise
Uplift to thee from out this heart of mine ;

So shall I be brought nearer thee :
Living or dying, Lord, I would be thine !

O THOU whose tender mercies are over all thy works :
trusting in thy loving-kindness we come to thee.
Wert thou strict to mark or severe to punish, we durst not approach thee. But thou art merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities : for as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is thy mercy toward them that fear thee. Like as a Father pitieth his children, so thou pitiest them that fear thee : for thou knowest our frames, thou rememberest that we are dust. Bless the Lord, O our souls ; and all that is within us, bless his holy name. O may thy goodness, righteous Father, lead us to repentance. And may thy purposes of divine goodness be accomplished in us. We ask for our kindred, our country, and all mankind. Amen.

APRIL 23.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul ; and all that is within me
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits :
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities : who healeth all thy
diseases : who redeemeth thy life from destruction : who
crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies :

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things, so that thy
youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
plenteous in mercy.

As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his
mercy toward them that fear him.

WHILE thee I seek, protecting Power !
Be my vain wishes stilled ;
And may this consecrated hour
With better hopes be filled.

Thy love the powers of thought bestowed,
To thee my thoughts would soar ;
Thy mercy o'er my life has flowed,
That mercy I adore !

In each event of life, how clear
Thy ruling hand I see !
Each blessing to my soul more dear
Because conferred by thee.

O THOU in whom we live and move and have our
being, to thee we owe life and all that makes life
dear to us. Thanks we give thee for the returning light
and our daily bread ; for home and health and friends ;
for the instructions of thy truth, and the opportunities of
thy service ; for repeated warnings against sin, and the
ample rewards that crown our fidelity ; for the sweet and
kindly ties that bind us one to another, and the pure affec-
tions that spring up in our hearts, fountains of bliss un-
speakable ; for all that renders this world a pleasant home
and fits us for the life to come. May a deep sense of thy
loving-kindness warm our hearts with gratitude ; and may
we show thee our gratitude by faithful and loving lives.
And may we so use all thy good gifts that they shall help
us to serve thee acceptably here and hereafter. Amen.

APRIL 24.

LIKE as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust.

As for man his days are as grass ; as a flower of the field so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it and it is gone ; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

In every joy that crowns my days,
In every pain I bear,
My heart shall find delight in praise,
Or seek relief in prayer.

When gladness wings my favored hour,
Thy love my thoughts shall fill ;
Resigned, when storms of sorrow lower,
My soul shall meet thy will.

My lifted eye, without a tear,
The gathering storm shall see ;
My steadfast heart shall know no fear :
That heart shall rest on thee !

O THOU whose help is always nearest when most needed : comfort those who mourn and are oppressed with their afflictions, or labor under the burden of a troubled mind : relieve the poor, and defend the cause of the fatherless and the widow : strengthen those who languish on the bed of sickness, and those who are departing from this world. Keep them all from sinning against thee, and from being overwhelmed by too heavy a sorrow. Let the events of their lives be under the control of reason and thy Holy Spirit, and end in holiness, in peace, and joy eternal. Amen.

APRIL 25.

GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea ; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling-place of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her ; she shall not be moved : God shall help her, and that right early.

The Lord of hosts is with us ; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Be still, and know that I am God : I am exalted among the heathen, I am exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Oh, how the thought of God attracts,
And draws the heart from earth,
And sickens it of passing shows
And dissipating mirth !

God only is the creature's home,
Though long and rough the road ;
Yet nothing else can satisfy
The love that longs for God.

Oh ! utter but the name of God
Down in your heart of hearts,
And see how from the world at once
All tempting light departs.

How little of that road, my soul,
How little hast thou gone !
Take heart and let the thought of God,
Allure thee further on.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day : defend us in the same with thy mighty power ; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger ; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APRIL 26.

WHO is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated; full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

THE pure and peaceful mind,
The meek and lowly heart,
The patient will to thine resigned,
God of all power, impart.

Lord! make us timely wise
To know thy call of grace,
And with the moment, as it flies,
Run our appointed race.

Thus, till we reach the goal,
All else to count but loss;
Nor, till we gain the prize, — our soul, —
Grow weary of the cross.

O HOLY Father, eternal God! we, thy children, bow before thee: we come to ask of thee, O God, that wisdom which is pure and peaceable. We implore that fruit of the Spirit which is gentleness and goodness. Help us to have control over ourselves. May we learn the gentleness of Christ, and be ourselves clothed with his spirit. May kindness and love rule in our hearts. Give us, amid the strifes of a rude world, the gentle spirit that overcomes the mighty, the gentle words that turn away wrath. In this spirit would we live; in this spirit would we die. And, O God of gentleness and love, in thine own good time take us to dwell with thee evermore. Amen.

APRIL 27.

JESUS said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke-is easy, and my burden is light.

COME, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,

Come, at the shrine of God fervently kneel!

Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish:

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,

Hope, when all others die, fadeless and pure:

Here speaks the Comforter, in God's name saying,

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure.

Here see the bread of life; see waters flowing

Forth from the throne of God, living and pure;

Come to the feast of love,—come, ever knowing

Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot cure.

O THOU great Spirit, whose best name is Love, who art ever near to all thy children: hear us now! for we seek thee early and long to find thee. We thank thee for Jesus Christ, who came to show us the way of life, and to draw us closer to our Father and our God. May we in spirit so come to Jesus and follow in his footsteps that he may lead us to thee, his Father and our Father. May we no longer wait or wander in sin, but this day set our faces heavenward and give our hearts to thee. Accept thou our offering. May our souls never be stained with guilt, but by thy watchful favor kept ever pure and ever safe. As the angels in heaven do always behold thy face, so may we who are on earth live as in thy pure presence, do thy will, and win thy smile, and be glad all our days. Amen.

APRIL 28.

CAST thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

THERE cometh o'er the spirit,
With each returning year,
The thought that thou, the Father,
Art ever to us near:
With hope of life dispelling
The death that winter brought;
And flowers and fruits foretelling,
With fragrant beauty fraught.

'Tis this which calls thy children
In sweet accord to raise,
Beneath thy blue-domed temple,
One general hymn of praise
To thee, the ever-living,
The universal King,
Who never ceasest giving
Each good and perfect thing.

O LORD God, who hast made glorious the name of thy Son Jesus Christ: mercifully grant us, we beseech thee, such a participation of his spirit, that we may even here possess rich measures of his heavenly strength and comfort; and that hereafter we may be admitted to the full joy of his blessed presence for ever.

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing holy: increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not those things which are eternal. Amen.

APRIL 29.

GREAT is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, the city of the great King.

God is known in her palaces for a refuge.

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. We remember thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

As thy name, O God, so extends thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.

Let Mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.

Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof.

Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces.

For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide unto death.

THY calmness bends serene above,
My restlessness to still;
Around me flows thy quickening life,
To nerve my faltering will;
Thy presence fills my solitude;
Thy providence turns all to good.

Embosomed deep in thy dear love,
Held in thy law I stand;
Thy hand in all things I behold,
And all things in thy hand;
Thou leadest me by unsought ways,
And turn'st my mourning into praise.

ALmighty God, in whom our strength is perfected in weakness: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may pass our days in peace and quietness, and be filled with the fruits of righteousness. O Lord, from whom all good things do come: grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guidance may perform the same, as true followers of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

APRIL 30.

HE that is not with me is against me ; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men : but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him : but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good ; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt : for the tree is known by his fruit.

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee : for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

WHERE human weakness has come short,
Or frailty stepped aside,
Do thou, all good ! for such thou art,
In shades of darkness hide.

Where with intention I have erred,
No other plea I have
But, thou art good ; and goodness still
Delighteth to forgive.

HEAVENLY Father, may our souls be earnest in the love of truth, and evermore seek truth in inward thought and outward act. May truth be in our innermost thoughts at all times : in the market-place and the home ; in daily duties and in midnight solitude ; in business, in pleasure, in study, in conversation, in all our words and deeds. May nothing keep us from learning thy truth and obeying it. If our right eye offend thee, may we be ready to pluck it out, or to cut off our right hand ere it shall do wrong. May we help one another, and know and feel that it is impious to ask thy help while we do not regard each fellow-being as a brother, or while we suffer ourselves by wrong-doing to stand as stumbling-blocks in each other's way. Amen.

MAY 1.

LO, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone ;
The flowers appear upon the earth, the time of the
singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is
heard in our land.

Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.
Dost thou know when God disposed them, and caused the
light of his cloud to shine? How thy garments are warm,
when he quieteth the earth by the south wind?

Thou visitest the earth and waterest it ; thou greatly
enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water :
thou preparest them corn when thou hast so provided for
it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly : thou
settlest the furrows thereof : thou makest it soft with
showers : thou blessest the springing thereof.

THE springtide hour brings leaf and flower,
With songs of life and love ;
And many a lay wears out the day
In many a leafy grove.
Bird, flower, and tree seem to agree
Their choicest gifts to bring ;
But this poor heart bears not its part :
In it there is no spring.

Lord, let thy love fresh from above,
Soft as the south wind blow :
Call forth its bloom, wake its perfume,
And bid its spices flow !
And when thy voice makes earth rejoice,
And the hills laugh and sing,
Lord, make this heart to bear its part,
And join the praise of spring.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all things, who
causest the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb
for the service of man ; who bringest forth fruit out of the
earth, and dost bless the springing thereof : be pleased
graciously to look down from thy holy habitation in heaven
upon us thy people, and upon the land wherein we dwell ;
that both it may become fruitful and yield its increase, and
we may grow in wisdom and in goodness, bringing forth
plenteously the fruit of good works, as disciples of him
who came to sow in us the seeds of eternal life. Amen.

MAY 2.

ABEL was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

In its freshness bring the flower
While the dew upon it lies,
In the cool and cloudless hour
Of the morning sacrifice.

As the first-fruits of the year
May be offered to the Lord,
So the first-fruits of the heart
On his altar may be poured.

Thus the blessing from above
On life's harvest shall be given;
Sown perhaps in tears on earth,
Reaped in joyfulness in heaven.

O INVISIBLE yet ever-present God, seen with the eye of faith by the seers of old, and by all the pure in heart: we bend before thee with deep and solemn awe. Yet we will lift up our hearts in hopeful confidence, for it is not a perfect offering, but a sincere one, thou desirest; and our hearts, though weak, are yet full of gratitude and love. Accept our sacrifice; and, trusting thy goodness, may we be assured that thou wilt give all needed blessing. Humbly and earnestly do we entreat thee to unveil thy face to our adoring and loving souls. Teach us what is right and true and good in thy most holy sight; and this may we seek for faithfully evermore. Amen.

MAY 3.

WASH you, make you clean: put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil: learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

O SINNER! bring not tears alone,
Or outward form of prayer;
But let it in thy heart be known
That penitence is there.

To beat the breast, the clothes to rend,
God asketh not of thee:
Thy secret soul he bids thee bend
In true humility.

O righteous Judge! if thou wilt deign
To grant us what we need,
We pray for time to turn again,
And grace to turn indeed.

HEAVENLY Father, may we ask of thee aright: not asking thee for harvests while we will not sow; for wisdom, while we disdain to study thy truth; for strength and health, while we indulge our appetites; for happiness, while we refuse thy love; or for heaven, while we neglect to learn and obey thy laws. When we ask thy favor, may we remember to do thy will. Thanks to thee for the example of perfect purity and goodness in Jesus Christ. May we study his character and imitate his excellence. As he went about doing good, may we also, in our daily walk, give bread to the hungry, knowledge to the ignorant, and show the way of salvation to those who sit in the region of the shadow of death. Amen.

MAY 4.

I WILL love thee, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and my high tower.

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

THY way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be !
Lead me by thine own hand ;
Choose out the path for me.
Smooth let it be or rough,
It will be still the best :
Winding or straight, it leads
Right onward to thy rest.

I dare not choose my lot ;
I would not if I might :
Choose thou for me, my God ;
So shall I walk aright.
Not mine, not mine, the choice
In things or great or small :
Be thou my guide, my strength,
My wisdom, and my all !

ETERNAL and all-seeing God: we, thy creatures, sink into nothing before thy supreme majesty; we feel our weakness; we acknowledge our folly; we repeatedly bewail our sins; thee only we adore with awful veneration; thee we thank with fervent zeal; to thy power we humbly submit; of thy goodness we devoutly implore protection; on thy wisdom we firmly and cheerfully rely. Whenever we address thee, O Father, if our prayers are unwise, wilt thou pity us? if they are presumptuous, wilt thou pardon us? if acceptable to thee, grant them, all powerful God: and as we now express submission to thy decrees, adore thy providence, and bless thy dispensations; so, in that future state to which we reverently hope thy goodness will raise us, may we continue praising, venerating, and worshipping thee, more and more, through worlds without number and ages without end. Amen.

MAY 5.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge ; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind ; charity envieth not ; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up ;

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil ;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth ;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

MIGHTY Spirit, gracious Guide !

Let thy light in us abide,
Chiefest gift at Whitsuntide, —
Holy, heavenly Love.

Faith, that mountains could remove,
Tongues of earth and heaven above,
Knowledge, — all things, — empty prove,
Without heavenly Love.

Though I as a martyr bleed,
Give my goods the poor to feed,
All is vain, if love I need :
Therefore give me Love.

Love is kind, and suffers long ;
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong ;
Love than death more strong :
Therefore, give us love.

O THOU Father of our spirits, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray : often in the midst of our daily business may we lift up our hearts to thee ; and grant, we humbly beseech thee, that those whom thou dost refresh with thy presence ; may, by a life well-pleasing to thee, show their love and gratitude, as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAY 6.

CHARITY never faileth : but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail ; whether there be tongues, they shall cease ; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child : but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly ; but then face to face : now I know in part ; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three ; but the greatest of these is charity.

PROPHECY will fade away,
Melting in the light of day ;
Love will ever with us stay,
Therefore, give us Love.

Faith will vanish into sight ;
Hope be emptied in delight ;
Love in heaven will shine more bright,
Therefore, give us Love.

Faith and Hope and Love we see
Joining hand in hand agree ;
But the greatest of the three,
And the best, is Love.

ALMIGHTY and ever-living God, the Father of our spirits, who delightest to do us good : strengthen, we beseech thee, us thy servants in all holy purpose ; daily increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, — the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and inward strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, the spirit of faith and hope and charity. Grant this, O blessed God, through thy love to us shown in Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAY 7.

I WILL be as the dew to Israel ;
He shall bloom as the lily,
And strike his roots like Lebanon.
His branches shall spread,
And his beauty shall be as the olive-tree,
And his fragrance as Lebanon.
They that dwell under his shadow shall gather strength,
They shall revive as the corn :
They shall shoot forth as the vine ;
Their name shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
I will be like a green cypress-tree,
From me shall thy fruit be found.
Who is wise, that he may understand these things ;
Prudent, that he may know them ?
For the ways of Jehovah are right,
And the righteous walk in them ;
But in them transgressors stumble.

EARTH with her thousand voices sings
Her song of gladsome praise ;
And every blade of grass that springs
God's loving law obeys.

The wind-flower and the violet fair
Reflect the morning sky ;
The birds make music in the air ;
The brook goes singing by.

Like this spring morning, sweet and clear,
That greets our opening eyes,
The spring of heaven's eternal year
Shall bring new earth and skies.

GRANT us, O Father, the refreshing dews of thy grace. May our hearts be joyful in thy love, and offer thee the grateful tribute of faithful lives. Thou, O Lord, art our strength, our refuge, and only deliverer. Teach our tongues fit words to call upon thee. Open within us the fountains of prayer and holy meditation ; reveal to us thy truth ; quicken us by thy Spirit ; love us with the love thou bearest to thy children. Thou hast given us thy best-beloved Son ; with him give us, we beseech thee, all other things that are needful for us. Amen.

MAY 8.

WHILE he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

FATHER! we look up to thee;
Let us in thy love agree;
Thou, who art the God of peace,
Bid contention ever cease.

Make us of one heart and mind;
Self-forgotten, true and kind;
Strong, yet meek in thought and word,
Like thy Son, our blessed Lord.

Let us for each other care,
Each the other's burden bear;
Ready, when reviled, to bless;
Studious of the law of peace.

HEAVENLY Father, we thank thee for the gift of Jesus Christ, thy best-beloved Son, who in this world's darkness has gone before men, his life like a pillar of fire leading them to the better land. We thank thee for his words, so lustrous with truth; for his life, fragrant all through with piety and love; yea, and for that triumphant death in which his spirit could not be holden of mortality. We thank thee for the triumphs which attend the name of Jesus; for the dear blessedness his life has bestowed upon us, softening the pillow of distress, and brightening the way whereon truth comes down from thee, and life to thee ever aspires. Father, we thank thee for all the blessing Jesus has widely scattered through the world; and most of all that he has revealed to us thine own divinity enlivening this mortal, human clod, and prophesying such noble future of achievement here on earth and in thine own kingdom of heaven. Amen.

MAY 9.

JESUS said, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink ; thou wouldst have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep : from whence, then, hast thou that living water ? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle ? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again : But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst : but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

O LORD, lift up thy countenance
Upon thy children ; own us thine ;
Impart to us thy peace divine ;
Thy blessing unto all dispense.

Thy mercy is our only stay :
Direct us by thy holy word ;
Thy Spirit's light to us afford ;
Preserve us lest we go astray.

O well of life ! we pant for thee ;
In copious streams thy thirsty flock
Desire to drink from thee, the Rock,
And thirst no more eternally.

O THOU Fountain of living waters, in our thirst may we come to thee and find refreshment. In our weariness may we find rest in thee, the source of all comfort and strength. O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom : grant us, thy servants, we humbly beseech thee, that peace which the world can neither give nor take away ; that we, who in all our dangers rely on thy goodness, may under thy Fatherly protection be defended against all adversities, and evermore rejoice in thy blessed service, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAY 10.

HE sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.

He brought me forth into a large place: he delivered me, because he loved me.

To the merciful thou showest thyself merciful; to an upright man thou showest thyself upright;

To the pure thou showest thyself pure; and to the wrathful thou showest thyself wrathful.

The ways of God are just and true, his word is pure, tried in the fire: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way plain.

FATHER, I know that all my life
Is portioned out for me,
And the changes that are sure to come
I do not fear to see;
But I ask thee for a present mind
Intent on pleasing thee.

I would not have the restless will
That hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do,
Or secret thing to know;
I would be treated as a child
And guided where I go.

O GOD, thy loving-kindness is better than life. Thy presence is the comfort and support of our souls. The thought of evil hides thy pure presence and becomes a cloud between us; when we remember our sins, we can no longer look up to thee. Blot our transgressions with thy love; uphold our souls by thy holiness. Behold we come unto thee, saying, Father, we have sinned against thee, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. Oh! strengthen and comfort us with the assurance that thy forgiveness and blessing are ever ready for those who truly repent and forsake their evil ways. May thy welcoming arms be open to receive us again to thy home of peace and purity; and from it may we never stray again. Amen.

MAY 11.

FOR the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up ; and he shall be brought low :

And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low : and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.

And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which he hath made for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats ;

To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

THERE are briers besetting every path,
That call for patient care ;
There is a cross in every lot,
And an earnest need for prayer ;
But a lowly heart that leans on thee
Is happy anywhere.

In a service which thy will appoints
There are no bonds for me :
For my inmost heart is taught " the truth "
That makes thy children " free ; "
And a life of self-renouncing love
Is a life of liberty.

O FATHER, send down thy Spirit like a ray of light upon our path, and deliver us from evil. Keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death. In the midst of health may we remember thee, our Witness and Judge, and use every blessing as a sacred gift. In the darkness as well as in the light, may we trace the working of thy power, and consider that the same Being, the Lord gracious and merciful, gives and takes away ; and still may we bless thy name. Amen.

MAY 12.

THEREFORE be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

YE servants of the Lord!
Each in your office wait,
Observant of his heavenly word,
And watchful at his gate.
Let all your lamps be bright,
And trim the golden flame:
Gird up your loins, as in his sight;
For holy is his name.

Watch! 'tis your Lord's command;
And while we speak, he's near:
Mark the first signal of his hand,
And ready all appear.
O happy servant he
In such a posture found!
He shall his Lord with rapture see,
And be with honor crowned.

O THOU who makest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice, and fillest the day with good: may thy gracious favor attend us this day and make it wholly thine. Every night we sleep under the shadow of thy protecting care. Day by day thou dost spread the table of thy bounty, and dost invite us to come and be fed. Day and night thy good Spirit ceaselessly calls us to leave the low places of sense and sin, to come up higher and enjoy the felicity of divine things. Oh, may we hear and heed the call of thy Spirit, and become co-workers with thee in the advancement of thy great purposes of good! Working with God and for him, our lives can know no real failure, but all things shall contribute to our soul's true success. So shall thy kingdom come and thy will be done. Amen.

MAY 13.

THE heavens declare the glory of God ; and the firmament showeth the work of his hands.

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

There is no sound nor language, and their voice is not heard.

Yet their speech is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. There hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.

He goeth forth from one end of the heaven, and his circuit is to the other end of it : and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The law of the Lord is perfect, giving life unto the soul : the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart : the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

O BLEST Creator of the light !
Who dost the dawn from darkness bring,
And framing nature's depth and height,
Didst with the new-born light begin :

Keep thou our souls from schemes of crime ;
Nor guilt remorseful let them know ;
Nor, thinking but on things of time,
Into eternal darkness go.

Teach us to knock at heaven's high door ;
Teach us the prize of life to win ;
Teach us all evil to abhor,
And purify ourselves within.

WE bless thee, O God, for life and all that makes life dear to us ; for health and strength, for hearing and sight, for food and raiment, for thy daily bounty and perpetual protection ; for the friends near and dear, and for the loved ones who have passed from mortal sight ; for the affections which survive the changes of death and the grave ; for the excellent lives and inspiring examples of the good and true ; for all thine own mercies that never fail. Day by day may we grow more worthy of thy loving-kindness, and show thee our gratitude by lives devoted to thy service. Amen.

MAY 14.

THE fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

MAY I resolve with all my heart,
With all my powers, to serve the Lord;
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,
Whose service is a rich reward.

Oh, may I never faint nor tire,
Nor, wandering, leave his sacred ways:
Great God, accept my soul's desire,
And give me strength to live thy praise.

O FATHER of compassion, and fountain of all goodness: we heartily thank thee for all thy bountiful gifts to us and to all men; we thank thee for our life, and all its blessings of health, strength, or prosperity; but more for all its charities and affections, and all its means of doing good in our home, or to our friends, or persons who trust us or depend upon us; above all, for thy grace and truth, and for our hopes of things eternal. Increase, O Lord, this knowledge, and multiply thy grace upon us, that no ignorance or sin may pervert thy blessings; but give us such a sense of thy goodness that we may ever devote ourselves to thy service in word and deed; and, praising thee both with our lips and our lives, go on through thy mercy to the joy of everlasting life. Amen.

MAY 15.

AND he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

THE cross of the Saviour his followers bear;
They drink of his cup, and his baptism share:
Tribulation in life is the lot of the best;
In Jesus is peace, in the Lord there is rest.

Ah! sensitive spirit, in life think thou not
To shun what on earth is humanity's lot:
By sorrow made perfect, by suffering blest,
The Lord is thy trust, and the Lord is thy rest.

ENABLE us, O Lord, to drink whatever cup thou shalt appoint for us, in the spirit of him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Give us grace to employ the gifts of thy bounty to thy glory; neither squandering them in riot and luxury, nor hoarding them for sordid gain: but grant that with heartfelt thankfulness to thee, the Giver of all good, we may use them with temperance for the supply of our own wants, and dispense them with liberality for the relief and comfort of the poor. Make us ever mindful that a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth, and that he liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of thy mouth: and so, while we pray daily unto thee, as thou hast permitted us, for the perishable meat of this present world, may we cease not to labor more earnestly for that living bread which thou hast given us by thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAY 16.

HE that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

He that receiveth you receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

WHEREVER in the world I am,
In whatsoe'er estate,
I have a fellowship with hearts
To keep and cultivate,
And a work of lowly love to do
For the Lord on whom I wait.

So I ask thee for the daily strength
To none that ask denied;
And a mind to blend with outward life,
While keeping at thy side:
Content to fill a little space
If thou be glorified.

O THOU, in whom we live and move and have our being: we thank thee for thy Fatherly care from the beginning of our life to the present moment. Sustained in life and health by thy great mercy, we here dedicate to thee our souls and bodies in a sober, righteous, and godly life. In this resolution, do thou, O Lord, strengthen us; and, as we grow in age, may we grow in grace and spiritual stature. Thou knowest our weakness and daily temptations: we implore the aid of thy Spirit. Keep us temperate; make us diligent; grant us patience; hold us upright; aid us to be peaceable and kind, full of compassion, ready to do good unto all. Direct us in all our ways, and prosper the work of our hands, and keep us ever in thy loving care. Amen.

MAY 17.

JESUS taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

O BRIGHT ideals! how ye shine
Aloft in realms of air!
Ye pour your streams of light divine
Above our low despair.
I've climbed and climbed these weary years
To come your glories nigh;
I'm tired of climbing, and in tears
Here on the earth I lie.

Ah! this one thought of hope and trust
Comes with its soothing balm,
As here I lay my brow in dust,
And breathe my lowly psalm, —
That not for heights of victory won,
But those I tried to gain,
Will come my gracious Lord's "well done"
And sweet effacing rain.

O THOU infinite Spirit, who art ever calling us to come up into the mountain of holiness: may we hear thy call and heed it; leaving the low places of sense and sin, may we follow in the footsteps of him in whose love and faithfulness thou wert well pleased. O God of light, Father of life, Author of grace, who givest, to those who are poor in spirit and put their trust in thee, a knowledge of such things as the very angels desire to look into; who hast brought us out of darkness into light, from death to life, from bondage into liberty: even now, O Lord, do thou enlighten our understandings by thy Holy Spirit, and thoroughly sanctify us in body and in soul, through thy beloved Son. Amen.

MAY 18.

HEAR, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt-offerings of rams. and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he-goats.

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Bring no more vain oblations: incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth:- they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

OH! like the sun may I fulfil
The appointed duties of the day;
With ready mind and active will
March on, and keep my heavenly way.

Lord, thy commands are clean and pure,
Enlightening our beclouded eyes;
Thy threatenings just, thy promise sure,
Thy gospel makes the simple wise.

INFINITE Source of all that is true: in learning the truth we learn thy thoughts and become acquainted with thee. May we seek for truth as for hidden and precious treasure. When truth seeks us and knocks at the door of our souls, may no indifference or prejudice forbid its entrance; but, as an angel visitant, may it find welcome. Gladly would we hail every message from heaven, however severe the toil or costly the sacrifice to which it calls us. To thy messengers, whether of joy or grief, of life or death, we would lend attentive ear. And to the heavenly visions thou showest us, may we never prove disobedient. Keep us this day without sin; may its passing hours render us more worthy of thy love. And may the time speedily come when thy glory shall fill the world as the waters fill the sea. Amen.

MAY 19.

I DESIRED mercy, and not sacrifice: and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy: break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? For your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

O Lord, remember me and visit me.

WILT Thou not visit me?
The plant beside me feels thy gentle dew;
Each blade of grass I see
From thy deep earth its quickening moisture drew.

Wilt thou not visit me?
Thy morning calls on me with cheering tone;
And every hill and tree
Lend but one voice, the voice of thee alone.

Come! for I need thy love
More than the flower the dew, or grass the rain;
Come, like thy holy dove,
And let me in thy sight rejoice to live again.

Yes! Thou wilt visit me;
Nor plant nor tree thine eye delights so well,
As when, from sin set free,
Man's spirit comes with thine in peace to dwell.

GRACIOUS God and Father, we thank thee for all the blessings we have received from thy bountiful hand; and also for the bitter experiences which thou hast turned to sweetness. We adore thy holy Providence which observes the least things, numbering the hairs of our heads, and watching over the raven and the sparrow. Trustful and grateful, we give ourselves up to thy Fatherly keeping and guidance; and would pray, as thy beloved Son hath taught us, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. Amen.

MAY 20.

THEN spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat :

All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do ; but do not ye after their works : for they say, and do not.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders ; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

But all their works they do for to be seen of men : they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.

And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi !

But be not ye called Rabbi : for one is your Master, even Christ ; and all ye are brethren.

DESPISE not little sins ; for mountain high may stand
The piled heap made up of little grains of sand.

Despise not little sins : the gallant ship may sink
Though only drop by drop the watery tide it drink.

Sin not till it is left will duly sinful seem :
A man must waken first, ere he can tell his dream.

Sin may be clasped so close we cannot see its face ;
Nor seen nor loathed, until held from us a small space.

O GOD, the Father of mercies : we desire to forsake all our evil ways, and to return unto thee, with our whole hearts. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us, and grant us thy salvation. Lead us by thy gracious hand in the path of duty ; and, in time of temptation, let thy good Spirit be with us, to keep us from falling. May our hearts be purified from all sinful affections ; may falsehood and deceit have no place in our words ; may we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee : that, being holy in thy sight, we may obtain thy favor, and be received into thine everlasting kingdom. Amen.

NOW when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, there came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

'Tis not the gift, but 'tis the spirit
With which 'tis given
That on the gift confers a merit,
As seen by Heaven.

'Tis not the deeds the loudest lauded
That brightest shine;
There's many a virtue unapplauded,
And yet divine.

The outward show may be delusive, —
A cheating name;
The inner spirit is conclusive
Of worth or shame.

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. O God, our heavenly Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ hast given us a perfect pattern of holy living: grant, we beseech thee, that as he was tempted and yet without sin, so by thy Fatherly help and blessing we may be enabled to resist and overcome the sins which do most easily beset us, and may finish our course with joy. Amen.

MAY 22.

EXAMINE me, O Lord, and prove me : try my thoughts
and my heart.

For thy loving-kindness is before mine eyes : and I walk
in thy truth.

I will wash mine hands in innocency : so will I go to
thine altar, O Lord :

To utter the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy
wondrous works.

I will walk in mine integrity : redeem me, and be merci-
ful unto me.

The mighty God, even the Lord, speaks, and calls the
earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down
thereof.

BLEST be thy love, dear Lord,
That taught us this sweet way,
Only to love thee for thyself,
And for that love obey.

Whether we sleep or wake,
To thee we both resign ;
By night we see, as well as day,
If thy light on us shine.

Whether we live or die,
Both we submit to thee ;
In death we live as well as life,
If thine in death we be.

O GOD, who knowest us to be set in so many and great
dangers, that by reason of our frailty we often fail :
grant to us such strength and protection as may support
us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations. O
thou who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections
of sinful men : grant unto thy people that they may love the
thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou
dost promise ; that so, among the manifold changes of the
world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be
found. Author of all things beautiful and good, our souls
rejoice in thine infinite loving-kindness. May we know
that the whole world is thy temple. In it may we dwell
as true worshippers, and our lives show forth thy praise.
Amen.

MAY 23.

ASOWER went forth to sow ;
And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way
side, and the fowls came and devoured them up :

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much
earth : and forthwith they sprang up, because they had no
deepness of earth :

And when the sun was up, they were scorched ; and
because they had no root, they withered away.

And some fell among thorns ; and the thorns sprang up,
and choked them :

But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit,
some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Sow in the morn thy seed,
At eve hold not thy hand ;
To doubt and fear give thou no heed,
Broadcast it o'er the land !
Beside all waters sow,
The highway furrows stock,
Drop it where thorns and thistles grow,
Drop it upon the rock !

The good, the fruitful ground
Expect not here nor there ;
O'er hill and dale and plain 'tis found,
Go forth, then, everywhere !
And duly shall appear,
In verdure, beauty, strength,
The tender blade, the stalk, the ear,
And the full corn at length.

FATHER, may the precious seed of thy truth be sown
in the good ground of our obedient hearts, and bear
fruit an hundredfold unto everlasting life. O almighty
and most merciful Father, in thy goodness regard our
prayers, and free our hearts from the disturbance of all
perverse and evil thoughts, that we may become a fit abode
for thy Holy Spirit. O God, our heavenly Father, of whose
only gift it cometh, that thy faithful people do unto thee
true and laudable service : grant, we beseech thee, that we
may so faithfully serve thee in this life, that we fail not to
attain the heavenly inheritance which thou hast set before
us by thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

HEAR ye therefore the parable of the sower.
When any one heareth the word of the kingdom,
and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and
catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is
he which received seed by the way side.

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same
is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it ;

Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while :
for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the
word, by and by he is offended.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that
heareth the word ; and the care of this world, and the
deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh
unfruitful.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he
that heareth the word, and understandeth it ; which also
beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold, some
sixty, some thirty.

O GOD, by whom the seed is given,
By whom the harvest blest ;
Whose word, like manna showered from heaven,
Is planted in our breast :

Preserve it from the passing feet,
And plunderers of the air,
The sultry sun's intenser heat,
And weeds of worldly care !

Though buried deep, or thinly strewn,
Do thou thy grace supply ;
The hope in earthly furrows sown
Shall ripen in the sky.

MERCIFUL Father, help us, thy children, to welcome
into our souls the seed of thy word. May no
worldly care or temptation choke it so that it perish. But
by the gracious influences of thy Holy Spirit may our hearts
be fruitful of righteousness. Plant in them the principles
of all holy living ; and may our lives bear fruit as the
garden of our God. Amen.

MAY 25.

AND Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

THOUGH, like the wanderer,
The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me,
My rest a stone;
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, to thee, —
Nearer to thee!

There let the way appear,
Steps unto heaven;
All that thou sendest me,
In mercy given;
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to thee, —
Nearer to thee!

O GOD, we gather and bend before thee in this good home, where we dwell in peace and in plenty. The power to make and to sustain this home is from thee. Deepen, we beseech thee, our sense of thy great bounty; help us to see why we are so blessed. May we know that these good things are given for great and generous uses. Oh grant that thy Spirit may touch us, so that we may gladly give of our bread to them that hunger. May we know that in all guises thine angels come to us, and grow radiant only after they are gone. May the fruits of pure living make this dwelling to all what thou hast made it to us, — the house of God and the very gate of heaven. Then, being faithful in our few things, may we know that thou hast said, Well done, and enter into thy joy. Amen.

MAY 26.

AND Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

And he called the name of that place Beth-el : but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

So that I come again to my father's house in peace ; then shall the Lord be my God :

And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house : and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

THEN with my waking thoughts,
Bright with thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs,
Bethel I'll raise ;
So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to thee, —
Nearer to thee !

Or, if on joyful wing
Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot,
Upward I fly ;
Still all my song shall be, —
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee !

THINE angels, O Lord, encamp round about us in the night season, and thou hast given them charge concerning us to defend us from all evil. So may we live that every place shall be to us as the house of God and the gate of heaven ; and every event, even though it be a cross, bring us nearer to thee. Open wide our hearts to all holy influences. Open heaven to the eye of our souls, and may our prayers and thy blessings be like angels ascending and descending ; and be this day blessed among our days on earth, a season of refreshing to our spirits, a day of the Lord, spent in thine intimate presence and preparing us for thine everlasting service. Amen.

MAY 27.

AND it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh ; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions :

And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit.

Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

Prove all things ; hold fast that which is good.

Be not faithless, but believing.

WE may not think our fathers' thought,

Their creeds our lips may alter ;

But in the faith they dearly bought,

Our hearts shall never falter.

'Twas faith in man, 'twas faith in God,

'Twas faith in truth and beauty,

In freedom's might, and reason's right,

And all controlling duty.

Oh, may that faith our hearts inspire

To earnest thought and labor !

That we may share its heavenly fire

With every friend and neighbor.

'Tis faith in man, 'tis faith in God,

'Tis faith in truth and beauty,

In freedom's might, and reason's right,

And all controlling duty.

WE believe, O Lord ; help thou our unbelief. Strengthen our faith, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. May we live as seeing thee, the invisible ; and so lay hold on things eternal that they shall become realities sure and satisfying. Give us more faith in man our brother, in our own high vocation, in the blessedness of true life. Grant us to be strengthened with might in the inner man, not to be drawn astray by false desires, but wisely to choose between things temporal and eternal. O Lord, grant us heavenly wisdom, that we may learn above all things to love and delight in thee. Thou art the true peace of the heart, thou its only rest. Teach us, O Lord, to do thy will ; teach us to live as true children of God evermore. Amen.

MAY 28.

THE Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon thee ; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him : he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Ask, and ye shall receive : seek, and ye shall find.

THERE are deep things of God : push out from shore.
Hast thou found much ? Give thanks, and look for more.
Dost fear the generous Giver to offend ?
Then think his store and bounty know no end.
He needeth not to be implored or teased :
The more we take, the better is he pleased.

What service can we render thee, kind Heaven,
But freely take what is so freely given ?
Thy best of gifts is wit to keep the cup
Wherein thou pourest blessing right side up.
Dwell thou within us, Lord of charity !
And we from thee shall endless givers be.

OTHOU infinite One, we reverence Thee, who art the permanent in things that change, the foundation of all that endures, the loveliness of things beautiful, and the wisdom and the justice and the love which make and bless and hold all this world of matter and of men. Father, we thank thee for the happiness that crowns our days, for the success that attends our efforts here on earth ; the brightness that gathers in our home, the hearts whose beating is music round our fireside, and whose sympathy is a blessing on our daily bread. For all things wherein our hearts rejoice we thank thee. We remember also the sorrows that fill our eyes with tears and our hearts with sadness. If we cannot thank thee for suffering, we thank thee that we know thou dost pity us, and dost order all for our good. Amen.

MAY 29.

HEAR the right, O Lord ; attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of false lips.

Let my sentence come forth from thy presence ; let thine eyes see what is right.

Prove my heart ; visit me in the night ; try me, my thoughts shall not vary from my speech.

Show thy loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee.

Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness : I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

TRUE Sun ! upon our souls arise,
Shining in beauty evermore ;
And through each sense the quickening beam
Of the eternal Spirit pour.

Rule thou our inmost thoughts ; let no
Impurity our hearts defile ;
Grant us a true and fervent faith ;
Grant us a spirit free from guile.

O GOD, our everlasting hope, who holdest us in life, and orderest our lot : we ask not for any prosperity that would tempt us to forget thee. As disciples of one who had not where to lay his head, may we freely welcome the toils and sufferings of our humanity, and seek only strength to glorify the cross thou layest on us. Every work of our hand may we do as unto thee ; in every trouble trace some lights of thine ; and let no blessing fall on dry and thankless hearts. Redeeming the time, may we fill every waking hour with faithful duty and well-ordered affections, as the sacrifice which thou hast provided. Strip us, O Lord, of every proud thought ; fill us with patient tenderness for others, seeing that we also are in the same case before thee ; and make us ready to help, and quick to forgive. And then, fix every grace, compose every fear, by a steady trust in thine eternal realities, behind the changes of time and the delusions of men. Thou art our Rock : we rest on thee. Amen.

MAY 30.

PRAISE waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion : and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts : we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.

Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it : thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water : thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly : thou settlest the furrows thereof : thou makest it soft with showers : thou blessest the springing thereof.

HARK, my soul, how every thing
Strives to serve our bounteous King :
Each a double tribute pays,
Sings its part, and then obeys.

Wake, for shame, my sluggish heart,
Wake, and gladly sing thy part ;
Learn of birds and springs and flowers
How to use thy nobler powers.

WE thank thee, O Father, for this day so sweet and fair, when the trees lift up their hands in praise, and every flower offers its incense, and every wandering bird sings its song of gratitude. We thank thee for the new life that fills the world, and for the perpetual spring-time with which thou sendest joy and new life into the souls of men. We thank thee for the justice that faints not nor is weary, for the truth which never fails, for the love that is sight to the blind and feet to the lame, that heals the sick, comforts the sorrowing, lifts up the fallen, and goes forth to seek and save the lost and bring the wanderer home ; for the faith that springs afresh in human hearts ; for the piety that has blessed mankind and made the world better ; for the peace that smooths the pathway for our weary feet ; and for the prophecy of glories yet to come. Amen.

MAY 31.

I WILL extol thee, O Lord ; for thou hast lifted me up.
O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

For his anger endureth but a moment, but his favor for life ; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper : the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

Go up, go up, my heart,
Dwell with thy God above ;
For here thou canst not rest,
Nor here give all thy love.

Go up, go up, my heart,
Be not a trifier here ;
Ascend above these clouds ;
Dwell in a higher sphere.

Let not thy love flow out
To things so soiled and dim ;
Go up to heaven and God,
Take up thy love to him.

O LORD, may the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight. Thou, Lord, art our Shepherd : lead us and feed us ; and nothing shall be wanting where thou hast folded us, until we be brought to the pasture of eternal life. To thee, O Father, be all glory and praise. The Lord bless us and keep us ; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us ; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace. Amen.

JUNE 1.

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And God said, Let there be light : and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good ; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light day, and the darkness he called night, and the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and the cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth on the earth after their kind : and God saw that it was good.

OH ! give thanks to him who made
Morning light and evening shade ;
Source and Giver of all good,
Nightly sleep and daily food ;
Quickener of our wearied powers,
Guard of our unconscious hours !

Oh ! give thanks to nature's King,
Who made every breathing thing :
His our warm and sentient frame ;
His the mind's immortal flame.
Oh, how close the ties that bind
Spirits to the Eternal Mind !

O LORD our God, the bountiful source of all good : we bless thee for our lives, and the gifts of grace, of nature, and of society ; for instruction in divine truth ; for the voice of thy calling, repeated so often ; for thy patience, thy long-suffering, thy very long forbearance towards us, who often and grievously, very often and very grievously, have sinned against thee ; for all the benefits we have received ; for all the little good we may have done ; for the enjoyment of present good ; for thy promise and our hope of good to come ; for loving parents, for wise teachers, for benefactors never to be forgotten ; for brethren of one mind with us ; for kind friends, for faithful servants, for all who by their writings or words or example have helped us in our heavenward way. For all these, and for all other known or unknown, remembered or forgotten, mercies, we praise thee, and will praise ; we bless thee, and will bless ; we thank thee, and will give thee thanks, now and for ever. Amen.

JUNE 2.

SO God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him ; male and female created he them.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed ; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat : and it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made ; and, behold, it was very good.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

THERE is no price set on the lavish summer,
And June may be had by the poorest comer.
And what is so rare as a day in June ?

Then, if ever come perfect days ;
Then Heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays.
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur or see it glisten.

Every clod feels a stir of might ;
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And, grasping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers.
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and valleys ;
And there's never a leaf or blade too mean
To be some happy creature's palace.

IN the morning, O God, the voice of prayer shall ascend to thee in the heavens ; for thy providence has overshadowed us, and thou hast watched over our defenceless slumbers. Again the light of day returns, and all thy works break forth before thee into singing. The heavens declare thy glory. The earth rejoices, and is glad at the visits of thy love. And we, formed in thy likeness, endowed with thine inspiration, distinguished as we are among thy creatures, would join with universal nature, and call upon all around and within us to praise and magnify thy great and holy name. Amen.

JUNE 3.

AND the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden ; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And out of the ground made the Lord to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food : the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden.

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress and to keep it.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.

Now is the hightide of the year,
And whatever of life hath ebb'd away
Comes flooding back with a ripply cheer
Into every bare inlet and creek and bay ;
Now the heart is so full that a drop overfills it,
We are happy now because God so wills it ;
No matter how barren the past may have been,
'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are green ;
We sit in the warm shade, and feel right well
How the sap creeps up and the blossoms swell ;
We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing
That skies are clear and grass is growing ;
Joy comes, grief goes, we know not how ;
Every thing is happy now,
Every thing is upward striving ;
'Tis as easy now for the heart to be true
As for grass to be green, or for skies to be blue :
'Tis the natural way of living.

LET the heavens rejoice and let the whole earth be glad, for Thou, the Lord God omnipotent, reignest ; and all, from the greatest to the least, are upheld by thine arm, which never grows weary. Thou givest us the night for repose. And now again for us the sun sheds abroad its light, and we awake to rejoice in thy glory filling earth and sky, and to partake of thine exhaustless bounty. We would go forth bearing in our hearts a grateful sense of thy mercy. May we have thee always before us and in our hearts, to love and serve with an entire mind. Give us light within to make our way plain. And give us strength to walk in the right way even unto the end. Amen.

JUNE 4.

THAT was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

No man hath seen God at any time ; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

WHENE'ER a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts, in glad surprise,
To higher levels rise.

The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls,
And lifts us unawares
Out of all meaner cares.

Honor to those whose words or deeds
Thus help us in our daily needs,
And by their overflow
Raise us from what is low !

FATHER divine, our teacher, guide, and friend, whose gracious will it is that all souls should be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, we adore and bless thy wisdom and goodness. May thy word not speak to us in vain. We open our hearts to receive it with glad welcome. We enshrine it in our souls, and pray that it may make its way into our lives, and light up our whole being with present and eternal life. Oh, may the purity and fidelity, the sweetness and simplicity, of the great Teacher be in us ! May his influence be manifested by a deeply religious life. Give us the grace needful for us : and to thee be praise evermore. Amen.

JUNE 5.

TRULY the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun.

Now learn a parable of the fig-tree: When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh.

As the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth: so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

How glad the tone when summer's sun
Wreathes the gay world with flowers,
And trees bend down with golden fruit,
And birds are in their bowers!

The morn sends silent music down
Upon each earthly thing;
And always since creation's dawn
The stars together sing.

Shall man remain in silence, then,
While all beneath the skies
The chorus join? no, let us sing,
And while our voices rise,

Oh, let our lives, great God, breathe forth
A constant melody;
And every action be a tone
In that sweet hymn to thee!

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but, above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE 6.

WHO shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LORD, make us timely wise,
To know thy call of grace,
And with the moment, as it flies,
Run our appointed race;—

Still keep the end in view,
Tarry nor turn aside;
Perils, allurements, bonds, break through,
Most faithful when most tried!

Thus, till we reach the goal,
All else to count but loss;
Nor, till we gain the prize,—our soul;—
Grow weary of the cross.

HELP us, O our Father, this day to be perfect as thou art perfect; according to our light and strength, to be true and kind and upright and just. May we do our work cheerfully, accept our joys gratefully, and endure our trials with patience. With alacrity may we serve thee and our fellow-men, welcoming every opportunity to assist those in need, and faithfully keeping our souls in harmony with thy holy law. Guide and govern us through this day by thy good Spirit, and may its close find its work faithfully done, its lessons learned, and its journey straightly travelled on the road that leads to heaven and thee. Amen.

JUNE 7.

NOW when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house ; and, his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord.

OPEN the doors of the house your home ;
Bid the fresh air and the sun " Welcome."
There's no need of the caution that kept the bars tight,
For the prowlers have fled at the presence of light ;
Lo ! the phantoms of dreams can no longer affright,
And the weeping of sorrow endures but a night :
Open the doors of the house.

Open the doors of the house of the Lord !
Reason and liberty wake restored.
Let the soul now a nobler career begin,
With more love to show and more worth to win ;
Banish out every spirit to darkness akin ;
Let the guests and the angels come trooping in :
Open the doors of the house.

INFINITE One, whose grandeur and whose love no name expresses and no words can tell : we would lift our souls into the sunlight of thy presence, that they may be filled with exceeding comfort and surpassing strength. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge of thee. And where there is no other voice or language, we thank thee for thy Holy Spirit, that silently comes and knocks at every closed heart, and into open souls comes like the sweetness of the morning, spreading there the delight of truth and piety, and loving-kindness and tender mercy. O Father, may our souls be ever open to thy messengers, whether of joy or grief or duty. And wilt thou make thine abode in our hearts, and dwell with us evermore. Amen.

JUNE 8.

THE Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret place of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me upon a rock.

Therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.

THOU life within my life, than self more near!
Thou veiled presence, infinitely clear!
From all illusive shows of sense I flee,
To find my centre and my rest in thee.

Below all depths thy saving mercy lies;
Through thickest glooms I see thy light arise;
Above the highest heavens thou art not found
More surely than within this earthly round.

Take part with me against these doubts that rise,
And seek to throne thee far in distant skies;
Take part with me against this self that dares
Assume the burden of these sins and cares!

How can I call thee who art always here?
How shall I praise thee who art still most dear?
What may I give save what thou hast given?
And whom but thee have I in earth or heaven?

EVER Blessed God, fountain of all good, indebted to thee for all that we possess and all that we enjoy, we adore thy greatness and are grateful for thy goodness. We acknowledge our dependence on thee, and commend ourselves to thy loving care. We thank thee for all the revelations of thy word and will. Thanks for the heavenly doctrines, precepts, and promises of the gospel of thy Son. May our hearts be touched by its holy influences, our characters formed by its spirit, and our lives governed by its laws. Oh! guide us, we beseech thee, in the way of truth, to our everlasting home! May the whole world come to the perfect light. Amen.

JUNE 9.

TAKE no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink ; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment ?

Behold the fowls of the air : for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns ; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they ?

And why take ye thought for raiment ? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow ; they toil not, neither do they spin :

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith ?

IN holy contemplation,
We sweetly then pursue
The theme of God's salvation,
And find it ever new.
Set free from present sorrow,
We cheerfully can say,
E'en let the unknown morrow
Bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing
But he will bear us through ;
Who gives the lilies clothing
Will clothe his people too.
Beneath the spreading heavens
No creature but is fed ;
And he who feeds the ravens
Will give his children bread.

OUR Heavenly Father, show thy tender compassion to our souls. Be not thou afar off when we cry for help, but ever present to our hearts. We seek our daily bread from the great storehouse of thy providence ; give us whatever thou seest good. We offer thee our penitent confessions, believing that thou forgivest sins ; blot out our past offences, and give us again thy peace all the days of our life. We commit ourselves as thy children into thy Fatherly hands for ever. Amen.

JUNE 10.

AND I have put my words in thy mouth, and have covered thee in the shadow of my hand.

Sing, O ye heavens ; for the Lord hath done it : shout, ye lower parts of the earth : break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein : for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.

Thus saith the Lord thy Redeemer, and he that formed thee, I am the Lord that maketh all things ; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone ; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.

KNOW well, my soul, God's hand controls

Whate'er thou fearest ;

Round him in calmest music rolls

Whate'er thou hearest.

What to thee is shadow, to him is day,

And the end he knoweth ;

And not on a blind and aimless way

The spirit goeth.

In life, in death, in dark and light,

All are in God's care ;

Sound the black abyss, pierce the deep of night,

And he is there.

Leaning on him, make, with reverent meekness,

His own thy will,

And with strength from him shall thy utter weakness

Life's task fulfil.

ALMIGHTY God, may every day lead us nearer to thee, and every event come to us as a messenger from heaven, to increase our faith and hope and love. In the world we shall have temptation ; but in thy strength may we overcome the world. Inspire us with a godly, penetrating fear, that we may abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good. In every righteous purpose, in every virtuous emotion, may we discern the agency of thy Spirit, working within us to will and to do. May this be the rock of our faith, the fountain of our strength, that thou dost inspire, sanctify, and assist all good resolutions and all right aims. It is thine own voice, O God, that speaketh in the soul. May we ever hear it, heed it, and obey, gladly following whithersoever it shall call. Amen.

JUNE 11.

A SOWER went out to sow his seed : and as he sowed, some fell by the wayside ; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

And some fell upon a rock ; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns ; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit a hundredfold.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Oh, may we treasure well
The counsels that we hear,
Till righteousness and holy joy
In all our hearts appear !

Water the sacred seed,
And give it large increase ;
May neither fowls nor rocks nor thorns
Prevent the fruits of peace.

And, though we sow in tears,
Our souls at last shall come,
And gather in our sheaves with joy
At Heaven's great harvest home.

WE give thanks unto thee, merciful Father, that thou hast been continually with us, to do us good. Thou hast upheld our souls in life, and made us to dwell in safety. Thou hast been our refuge and our strength, a present help in time of trouble. Thou hast fed us with food convenient for us, and hast given us all things richly to enjoy. We desire at all times to live in thy fear, and to obey thy will. May thy love restrain us from all wickedness in thought, word, or deed. Cleanse thou us from secret faults ; keep back thy servants also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over us. Establish our hearts in thy love, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

JUNE 12.

O LORD, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of face as at this day ;

O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, because we have sinned against thee.

Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servants and their supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary for the Lord's sake.

O my God, incline thine ear, and hear ; open thine eyes, and behold : for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies.

O Lord, hear ; O Lord, forgive ; O Lord, hearken and do : defer not, for thine own sake, O our God.

O THOU true life of all that live !

Who dost, unmoved, all motion sway ;

Who dost the morn and evening give,

And through its changes guide the day :

Thy light upon our evening pour,

So may our souls no sunset see ;

But death to us an open door

To an eternal morning be.

ALMIGHTY God, who rulest over all the kingdoms of the earth, and on whose gracious providence we depend evermore for preservation and prosperity : extend, we beseech thee, thy paternal goodness to thy people. Our necessities and dangers are all known to thee. Vouchsafe to guide us continually with thy counsel, and strengthen us with thy power ; and so direct and sanctify our hearts that, looking up to thee as our only safeguard and the supreme Author of all blessings, we may have the unspeakable blessing of thy almighty protection and thy heavenly favor. Most gracious Father, let thy blessing rest on every member of thy great human family. May every one be a partaker of thy gospel in Jesus Christ. Grant that the bright beams of thy truth may shine upon those who are walking in darkness ; till all the kindreds of thy people shall know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Amen.

JUNE 13.

HAST thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

THERE'S nothing bright, above, below,
From flowers that bloom to stars that glow,
But in its light my soul can see
Some feature of the Deity.

There's nothing dark, below, above,
But in its gloom I trace thy love,
And meekly wait the moment when
Thy touch shall make all bright again.

The heavens, the earth, where'er I look,
Shall be one pure and shining book,
Where I may read in words of flame
The glories of thy wondrous name.

WE thank thee, O God, for the pleasant light of life, and for that gracious providence which again pours around us the cheerful beams of the morning. Oh, may our progress in wisdom and holiness be like the dawning light, silently and steadily growing brighter and brighter toward the perfect day! We bow ourselves before thee, in adoration and prayer, and invoke thy Spirit, the Spirit of life and love, to descend and sanctify our hearts and lips. Let not our devotion grow cold; but by our daily praises and supplications may the pure fire of religion be fed in our souls, and kindled into a flame never to be extinguished. May thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; for thine is the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

JUNE 14.

WHEREFORE, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

AWAKE, my soul ! stretch every nerve,
And press with vigor on ;
A heavenly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around
Hold thee in full survey :
Forget the steps already trod,
And onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all-animating voice
That calls thee from on high ;
'Tis his own hand presents the prize
To thine aspiring eye ; —

That prize with peerless glories bright,
Which shall new lustre boast
When victors' wreaths and monarchs' gems
Shall blend in common dust.

ALMIGHTY God, who beholdest thy creatures encompassed with such darkness of ignorance that often they distrust thy providence, thinking themselves forsaken when thou dost not immediately relieve them : oh grant that with uplifted minds we may contemplate those things which thy holy word reveals ; not doubting that thou lookest upon us, and givest thine angels charge to keep us, to bear us up in their hands, and to guide us in all difficulties. So may we wholly commit ourselves to thy fatherly care ; and while we press forward to the mark of the prize of our high calling in Jesus Christ, do thou ever draw and direct us in the ways of thine appointment, until at length we be gathered into our rest. Amen.

FOR as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater :

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth : it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace : the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

THOU art, O God, the life and light
Of all this wondrous world we see ;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from thee :
Where'er we turn, thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are thine.

When youthful Spring around us breathes,
Thy Spirit warms her fragrant sigh ;
And every flower the Summer wreathes
Is born beneath thy kindling eye :
Where'er we turn, thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are thine.

GOD of our lives, Maker of heaven and earth, who dost every morning command the light to shine out of darkness : shine into our hearts now, and give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory. Let an everlasting day dawn within us. As we have risen refreshed by repose, we would go forth this morning with heart and hand ready for every good work. We would return to our active duties with a fresh sense of the true value and purposes of life, and more deeply impressed than ever by the thought of the momentous consequences involved in all that we do. But without thee all our strength is naught, and we shall labor in vain. Grant us thy blessing. God be with us this day to guard and guide. Amen.

JUNE 16.

OWE no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Pour forth the oil, — pour boldly forth;
It will not fail, until
Thou failest vessels to provide
Which it may largely fill.
Make channels for the streams of love,
Where they may broadly run;
And love has overflowing streams
To fill them every one.

But if at any time we cease
Such channels to provide,
The very founts of love for us
Will soon be parched and dried.
For we must share, if we would keep,
That blessing from above;
Ceasing to give, we cease to have:
Such is the law of love.

WE thank thee, merciful Father, for our daily blessings; accepting them as a sacred trust, may we remember the duties they lay upon us. May fidelity and mercy be the spirit of our lives, owing no man any thing but to love one another. May the gentle pure spirit of the blessed Jesus possess our hearts and rule our words and deeds. May peace, harmony, and love abide in our home, and the voice of health and cheerfulness be ever heard therein. Let thy mercy surround our abode and follow us in all our ways. Throughout our earthly pilgrimage be thou our guide and comforter; let thy rod and staff be our support in the valley of the shadow of death; and lift up the light of thy countenance upon us in the regions of eternal day. Amen.

JUNE 17.

JESUS saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields ; for they are white already to harvest.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor : other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors

ARISE! this day shall shine,
For evermore
To thee a star divine
On Time's dark shore.

To each anointed priest
God's summons came ;
O soul, he speaks to-day,
And calls thy name.

Raise up thine eyes ; be strong,
Nor cast away
The crown that God has given
Thy soul to-day !

O HOLY Father, help us to labor for those enduring riches which consist in the knowledge of thee, and in the glory of thy gracious presence. Suffer us not, we pray thee, so to limit thy power as to think that thou art not now able to supply our real wants, though blessings which we were wont to enjoy are taken from us. Restrain, we beseech thee, our desires ; teach us willingly to submit ourselves to thy wisdom. Let thy promises and providence be our storehouse : let it be enough for us to believe as we do, that though we lose all we possess, yet, inasmuch as thou hast once loved us in Christ, we shall never lose thy favor. Through him be ascribed unto thee glory and dominion, world without end. Amen.

JUNE 18.

HOW lovely are thy dwellings, O Lord of hosts !
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth, for the courts
of the Lord : my heart and my flesh crieth out for the
living God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house : they are still
praising thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in
thee : in whose heart are thy ways.

Passing through the valley of sorrow they make it full of
fountains, and the latter rain covers it with blessings.

WHEN the day of toil is done,
When the race of life is run,
Father, grant thy wearied one
Rest for evermore !

When the heart, by sorrow tried,
Feels at length its throbs subside,
Bring us where all tears are dried,
Joy for evermore !

When for vanished days we yearn,
Days that never can return,
Teach us in thy love to learn
Love for evermore !

When the breath of life is flown,
When the grave must claim its own,
Lord of life, be ours thy crown, —
Life for evermore !

INFINITE Ruler of the Universe, in all the order of
creation thou art working for the welfare of thy creat-
ures and thy children, and with every new day pouring
out bounties with lavish hand. Thou art ever more ready
to grant thy good gifts than we are to ask or even to
receive. We need not wander afar to find thee : thou
art ever near and waiting to bless us. When we turn our
faces toward thee, thy smile greets us ; when we open our
hands, thou fillest them with good. O our Father, may we
no longer waste our substance in riotous living, and feed
our souls on husks of worldliness. May we this day come
home, and never wander again. In thy favor, O our Father,
may we live and die, and live again for ever. Amen.

JUNE 19.

SEEING then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

THEY who seek the throne of grace
Find that throne in every place ;
If we live a life of prayer,
God is present everywhere.

In our sickness or our health,
In our want or in our wealth,
If we look to God in prayer,
God is present everywhere.

When our earthly comforts fail,
When the foes of life prevail,
'Tis the time for earnest prayer :
God is present everywhere.

ETERNAL Spirit, whose nearness to man is the beginning of all religion, grant us in all love and obedience to be reckoned thy children ; and through the breathing of thy Holy Spirit may the whole family of mankind be joined into one, and sanctified. Pour on thy servants the increase of faith, hope, and charity, that they may both faithfully serve thee in time and enjoy thee in eternity. Grant us so to have our inward sight quickened, and our better mind strengthened, that we may avoid what destroys and lay hold on what works perpetual peace. Grant that a new birth of heart may set free those whom sin would hold as slaves in the old bondage. As we are saved from all evil by partaking of thy thought, so may we ever be preserved by thy power. In the spirit of him who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin, we would come boldly to thy throne of grace : may we obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need, and evermore enjoy the peace of thy kingdom. Amen.

JUNE 20.

NOW faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

'Tis by the faith of joys to come
We walk through deserts dark as night;
Till we arrive at heaven our home,
Faith is our guide and Faith our light.

The want of sight she well supplies;
She makes the pearly gates appear;
Far into distant worlds she pries,
And brings eternal glories near.

OUR Father, who art in heaven and on earth, and near unto every heart: we flee unto thee, seeking to feel thy presence, to know thee as thou art, and to worship thee with all our mind and conscience and heart and soul. We seek to commune with thy Spirit, that we may freshen our hearts, tired with the world's journey and sore travail, and bow our faces down and drink at the living waters. Help us to grow stronger and nobler by this world's varying good and ill; and, while we enlarge the quantity of our being by continued life, may we improve its quality and kind not less, and become fairer, more tender and heavenly, as we leave behind us the various events of our mortal life. So, Father, may we grow in goodness and in grace, and here on earth attain the perfect measure of a complete man. So in our heart and life may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Amen.

JUNE 21.

OUT of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines.

Our God comes, and does not keep silence : a fire devours before him, and a tempest rages around him.

He calls to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak ; O Israel, and I will admonish thee : I am God, even thy God.

Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I know all the fowls of the mountains : and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

For the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

Offer unto God thanksgiving ; and pay thy vows unto the Most High.

THY mighty working, mighty God,
Wakes all my powers ; I look abroad,
And can no longer rest ;
I too must sing when all things sing,
And from my heart the praises ring :
The highest loveth best.

I think, art thou so good to us,
And scatterest joy and beauty thus
O'er this poor earth of ours ;
What joy and glories shall be given
From gardens in thy shining heaven,
Where all is sweet with flowers !

ALMIGHTY God, we thank thee for the various blessings which make our lives happy : for our friends, our kindred, and our peaceful homes ; for the daily supply of our temporal wants, and for the bodily health which enables us to enjoy what we receive ; for our Christian faith and religious privileges ; for the consolations which sustain us under affliction, and the hopes which cheer us in the prospect of death. We thank thee for the means of improvement and the opportunities of usefulness. And we beseech thee, O most merciful God, that we may have grace so to use the time and privileges of our life on earth as finally to triumph over sin and death, and be worthy of the life eternal. Amen.

JUNE 22.

I WAITED patiently for the Lord ; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

And hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God : many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and resorteth not to men of pride and falsehood.

Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done ; many are thy gracious thoughts toward us ; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

WHY thus longing, thus for ever sighing,
For the far off, unattained, and dim ;
While the beautiful, all round thee lying,
Offers up its low perpetual hymn ?

Wouldst thou listen to its gentle teaching,
All thy restless yearnings it would still ;
Leaf and flower and laden bee are preaching
Thine own sphere, though humble, first to fill.

O THOU whose mercy still prolongs our lives, and furnishes us with all things needful for our daily sustenance and growth : grant us the guidance of thine ever-present Spirit ; lead us in the ways of righteousness and peace : and unto thy name be thanksgiving and honor. O Lord God, who givest power to the faint, and to them that have no might increasest strength : we pray thee to be to us a present help in time of trouble ; that, whereas through manifold temptations we are sore hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us, through him whom thou hast exalted to be unto us a Prince and a Saviour. Holy Father, grant us, we earnestly beseech thee, time and opportunity to tarry in the most plentiful pastures of the holy Scriptures, where thou leadest us beside the still waters, until the day of eternity dawns, and the shadow of mortality is gone down. Amen.

JUNE 23.

O THE depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever.

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

THE best will is our Father's will,
And we may rest there calm and still.
Oh make it hour by hour thine own,
And wish for nought but that alone
Which pleases God.

What most would profit us he knows,
And ne'er denies aught good to those
Who with their utmost strength pursue
The right, and only care to do
What pleases God.

To thee for ever shall be given
A kingdom and a crown in heaven;
And there shall be fulfilled in thee,
And thou shalt taste and hear and see,
What pleases God.

INFINITE One whom the heavens cannot contain, who yet dost make thine abode in pure and humble hearts: thou art ever ready to come nigh unto us when we draw near to thee. Visit us now, we beseech thee, and dwell with us and keep us evermore. We bless thee for the night with its refreshing sleep, and for the day with all its invitations to joy and duty. In the night shadows of sorrow, may our souls find the rest of serene trust. In the sunshine of prosperity, may we hear the call to rise and do the Lord's work and will. Day and night alike are thine. May we know that thine eye is ever upon us, and that the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. So may we dwell as in thy holy presence evermore. Amen.

JUNE 24.

O GOD, thou art my God ; early will I seek thee : my soul thirsteth for thee, my heart longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is ;

To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live : I will lift up my hands in thy name.

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

My God was with me all this night,
And gave me sweet repose :
My God did watch, e'en whilst I slept,
Or I had never rose.

Lord, for the mercies of the night,
My humble thanks I pay ;
And unto thee I dedicate
The first fruits of the day.

Let this day praise thee, O my God !
And so let all my days :
And oh let mine eternal day
Be thine eternal praise.

HOLY Lord God : how can we lift up our face, and make mention of thy loving-kindness ? for thy praise is only our abasement, and the greatness of thy mercy is the measure of our guilt. Yet turn us not back from thy presence. Look upon us according to our deep need, not our poor deservings. Lift off the burden of our many sins, and revive the contrite that fly to thee. When thou art nigh, we are weary of our selfish desires, our faithless cares, our unresisted temptations : wasted moments, and bitter words, and vain ambitions rise up in judgment against us : we lay at thy feet with shame the vows we have not kept, and the sorrows we have not sanctified. No secret thing is hid from thee. Thou knowest the spirit we are of. Chasten us with thy rebuke, seek us with thy pity, recall us by thy grace, ere we are quite estranged from thee. Let the saving word, once heard on earth, be renewed from heaven, "Your sins are forgiven ; go in peace." Amen.

JUNE 25.

SO then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

LORD, help me strive with each besetting sin,
Recall my wandering fancies, and restrain
The sore disquiet of a restless brain;
And, as the path of duty is made plain,
May grace be given that I walk therein,
Not like the hireling, for his selfish gain,
With backward glances and reluctant tread,
Making a merit of his coward dread, —
But, cheerful, in the light around me thrown,
Walking as one to pleasant service led;
Doing God's will as if it were my own,
Yet trusting not in mine, but in his strength alone.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who hast created all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth: the high and the humble, the rich and the poor, are thine, the Lord is the maker of them all. We thank thee for all the good gifts we are permitted to enjoy: for home, and its comfort and happiness; for wise and faithful friends. Help us, O God, that in our abundance we may remember the poor and suffering. Hear thou our prayers for their sakes. Give to them in their needs; shield them in their exposures. Bless the widow and the orphan. Wipe away the tears from the afflicted. What thou of thy bounty givest us, may we share with the needy. Father, we pray that the tender spirit of Jesus may more and more prevail in the world; and to thy name be glory for ever. Amen.

JUNE 26.

WITHHOLD not thou thy tender mercies from me,
O Lord: let thy loving-kindness and thy truth
continually preserve me.

For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head therefore my heart faileth me.

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually. The Lord be magnified.

But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

LIFE is only bright when it proceedeth
Towards a truer, deeper life above;
Human love is sweetest when it leadeth
To a more divine and perfect love.

Learn the mystery of progression duly;
Do not call each glorious change decay;
But know we only hold our treasures truly
When it seems as if they passed away.

Nor dare to blame God's gifts for incompleteness:
In that want their beauty lies; they roll
Towards some infinite depth of love and sweetness,
Bearing onward man's reluctant soul.

O GOD, our heavenly Father: we give thee humble and hearty thanks for all the benefits and blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which in the riches of thy great mercy thou hast poured down upon us. We beseech thee, good Lord, that it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so as in due time we may enjoy them; that it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorance; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy word. Gracious Lord God, Father of mercies: we beseech thee to hear us, through thy loving-kindness declared to us by Jesus Christ, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

JUNE 27.

BE merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me : for my soul trusteth in thee : yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

Awake, my soul ; I myself will awake early.

I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people : I will sing unto thee among the nations.

For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens : let thy glory be above all the earth.

THE light pours down from heaven,
And enters where it may ;
The eyes of all earth's children
Are cheered with one bright day.

So let the mind's true sunshine
Be spread o'er earth as free,
And fill men's waiting spirits
As the waters fill the sea.

The soul can shed a glory
On every work well done ;
As even things most lowly
Are radiant in the sun.

O GOD, the Father of light and of wisdom : may our minds be enlightened with useful knowledge ; and may the truths of religion sink deep into our hearts, and influence all our actions. From a steadfast faith in thy perfections, may we maintain a constant regard to thine administration, submit with cheerfulness to thine appointments, live in thy fear, and order our whole conversation as in thy sight. Under the influence of our holy religion, may we purify our minds from all vicious affections, abstain from every appearance of evil, and abound in all the fruits of righteousness. May the expectation of a happy immortality sustain our virtue in the midst of the most powerful temptations, and establish our souls in peace and joy, for the sake of thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE 28.

BLESS them which persecute you : bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you live peaceably with all men.

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath : for it is written, Vengeance is mine ; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him ; if he thirst, give him drink.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

THE uplifted eye and bended knee
Are but vain homage, Lord, to thee :
In vain our lips thy praise prolong,
The heart a stranger to the song.

Love God and man, — this great command
Doth on eternal pillars stand ;
This did thine ancient prophets teach,
And this thy well-beloved preach.

ESTABLISH us, O our Father, in thy faith and fear and love ; and enlighten us that we may understand thy whole will concerning us. Where we mistake, have pity on our errors ; and, if we have wandered from the right way, do thou in mercy bring us back. Lead us, O Lord, into the paths of righteousness and peace. If we have in any measure attained to the knowledge of thy truth, may we bring our faith into active exercise. May we watch our hearts, and bridle our tongues, and govern our tempers. May we be ready to forgive, even as we hope to be forgiven. May we be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor shall not be in vain in the Lord. Amen.

JUNE 29.

CONSIDER the ravens : for they neither sow nor reap , which neither have storehouse nor barn ; and God feedeth them : how much more are ye better than the fowls ?

Consider the lilies how they grow : they toil not, they spin not ; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven : how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith ?

And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

For all these things do the nations of the world seek after : and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

Lo, the lilies of the field !
How their leaves instruction yield !
Hark to Nature's lesson given
By the blessed birds of heaven !
Every bush and tufted tree
Warbles trust and piety.
Mortals, banish doubt and sorrow :
God provideth for the morrow.

One there lives whose guardian eye
Guides our earthly destiny ;
One there lives who, Lord of all,
Keeps his children lest they fall.
Pass we, then, in love and praise,
Trusting him through all our days,
Free from doubt and faithless sorrow :
God provideth for the morrow.

MOST gracious and merciful Father, our defender and preserver : endue us with thy grace, that we may not be too careful for worldly things, but may make it our chief study and care to keep thy holy law ; and that we may labor for the necessities of this world, like the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, without being careful for the morrow. In the spirit of thy dear Son, we would cast all our care upon thee, who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

JUNE 30.

LET every one that thirsteth come to the waters, and let him that hath no money come, buy and eat ; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread ? and your labor for that which satisfieth not ? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in goodness.

Incline your ear, and come unto me : hear, and your soul shall live : and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near :

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts : and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him ; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

To halls of heavenly truth, admission wouldst thou win ?
Oft knowledge stands without, while love may enter in.

Lovingly to each other sun and moon give place,
Else were the mighty heaven for them too narrow space.

God many a spiritual house has reared ; but never one
Where lowliness was not laid first the corner stone.

Rear highly as thou wilt thy branches in the air,
But that thy roots shall strike as deep have care.

GIVE us grace to love thy holy word fervently, to search it diligently, to read it humbly, to understand it truly, and to live after it steadfastly. Order our lives, O Lord, that they be always acceptable to thee. Give us grace not to rejoice in any thing that displeaseth thee, but evermore to delight in those things which thou approvest, be they never so contrary to our own desires. Keep us upright amid diversity of opinion and judgments in the world, that we may never swerve from thy truth as it is in Jesus. Amen.

JULY 1.

BY wonderful things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation ; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea :

They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are awed by thy wonders : thou makest the regions of the morning and evening to rejoice.

THE earth, all light and loveliness,
In summer's golden hours,
Shines, in her bridal vesture clad,
And crowned with festal flowers,
So radiantly beautiful,
So like to heaven above,
We scarce can deem more fair that world
Of perfect bliss and love.

Is this a shadow faint and dim
Of that which is to come ?
What shall the unveiled splendor be
Of our celestial home,
Where waves the glorious tree of life,
Where streams of bliss gush free,
And all is glowing in the light
Of immortality ?

O GOD, who art, and wast, and art to come, before whose face the generations rise and pass away : age after age the living seek thee, and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion : still to their children be thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where but in thee have we a covert from the storm, or shadow from the heat of life ? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and art ever nigh ; in sorrow, thy pity revives the fainting soul ; in our prosperity and ease, it is thy Spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us low. O thou sole Source of peace and righteousness : take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints who have trusted in thee, and were not ashamed. Not of our worthiness, but of thy tender mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

JULY 2.

VERILY, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh ; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye** must be born again.

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth : so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things ?

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

SPIRIT divine ! attend our prayer,
And make our hearts thy home ;
Descend with all thy gracious power :
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come as the light : to waiting minds
That long the truth to know,
Reveal the narrow path of right,
The way of duty show.

Come as the fire : enkindle now
The sacrificial flame,
Till our whole souls an offering be
In Love's redeeming name.

Come as the wind : sweep clean away
What dead within us lies,
And search and freshen all our souls
With living energies.

ALmighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid : cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee. Assist us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help ; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 3.

AND John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey:

And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him; and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

COME, mighty Spirit, penetrate
This heart and soul of mine;
And my whole being with thy grace
Pervade, O Life divine!

Thy life within our lifeless hearts
Shall make its glad abode;
And we shall shine in beauteous light,
Filled with the light of God.

HOLY One, who knowest all our secret thoughts: lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and give us peace. Grant unto us a pure heart and right spirit. We would seek to do what is well pleasing in thy sight; careful never to offend thee in thought, word, or deed. May we imitate the example of thy beloved Son; and walk in his footsteps, loving and faithful even unto death. Help us to welcome and obey the truth, and to proclaim it by our word and life. Enable us to be just and kind. As the years pass on, may we grow in wisdom and in favor with God and man. Forgive our sins; when wandering reclaim us; when weary and discouraged, cheer and strengthen us; in our sorrows comfort us; in our perplexities guide us; living may we love and serve thee. In the hour of death may we trust in thee; and through the grave rise to praise and serve thee for ever. Amen.

JULY 4.

WE have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what deeds thou didst in their days, in the times of old.

For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them, but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favor unto them.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

LORD, while for all mankind we pray,
Of every clime and coast,
Oh ! hear us for our native land, —
The land we love the most.
Oh ! guard our shores from every foe,
With peace our borders bless ;
With prosperous times our cities crown,
Our fields, with plenteousness.

Unite us in the sacred love
Of knowledge, truth, and thee ;
And let our hills and valleys shout
The songs of liberty.
Lord of the nations ! thus to thee
Our country we commend :
Be thou her refuge and her trust,
Her everlasting friend !

SHED abroad thy Spirit, O Lord ; for where thy spirit is, there is liberty. Write thy law upon all souls, — the law which commands us to do unto others as we would they should do unto us. Let not wealth and pleasure be the idols of this nation ; but may we be that happy people whose God is the Lord. Then shall our light break forth as the morning, and our darkness be as the noonday. And, upon every return of this day, this people shall be advancing in the arts and in the love of peace, and every voice shall be lifted up in thanksgiving, and all chains shall fall from the limbs and the souls of men ; and, by thy light kindled here, all nations shall come and worship before thee. Thine, O Lord, is the might and the majesty and the dominion for ever and ever ! Amen.

JULY 5.

COME near, ye nations, to hear ; and hearken, ye people ; let the earth hear, and all that is therein ; the world, and all things that come forth of it.

O Lord of hosts, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth ; thou hast made heaven and earth.

Incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear ; open thine eyes, O Lord, and see : and hear all our words.

O Lord, thou art my God ; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name ; for thou hast done wonderful things ; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, and thou wilt take away the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

O HOLY Spirit, who with gentlest breath
Dost teach to pray, dost comfort or reprove,
Who givest us all joy and hope and faith,
Through whom we live at peace with God in love :
Still do thou shed thine influence abroad ;
Let me the Father's image ever wear ;
Make me a holy temple of my God,
Where dwells for ever calm, adoring prayer !

GREAT Fountain of happiness, who delightest to send forth over creation the streams of joy and delight : thou hast created us, thy children, and blessed us with everflowing sources of good. We thank thee for our varied endowments, and especially for our moral and religious affections. Thy will is our true welfare. May we hallow it in our hearts, and obey it in our lives. Careful for nothing but to please thee, we leave our happiness in thy hands. Oh, enable us to think of duty more than of its rewards. May we live in the purity of little children, simply yielding ourselves to thy guidance. Thy way is the only safe and joyful way. Knowing in whom we have trusted, and confiding in thy grace, oh make us strong in our hour of weakness, and keep us faithful unto death ! Amen.

JULY 6.

A DOUBLE-MINDED man is unstable in all his ways. Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted :

But the rich, in that he is made low : because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth : so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation : for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God : for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.

IF humble, next of thy humility beware,
And, lest thou shouldst grow proud, of such a grace have care.

God often would enrich, but finds not where to place
His treasure : nor in hand nor heart a vacant space.

Mark how there still has run, inwoven from above,
Through thy life's darkest woof the golden thread of love.

Things earthly we must know ere love them : 'tis alone
Things heavenly that must first be loved, and after known.

O GOD, our Father, we receive with all thankfulness the manifold testimonies thou hast given us of thy incomprehensible love and favor towards us through thy dearly beloved Son ; and most humbly we bow our knees unto thee, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that thou wouldest grant us, according to the riches of thy glory, to be strengthened with might by thy Spirit in the inner man ; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith ; and that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the length and breadth and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. Amen.

JULY 7.

AND when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was : and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

And he went forth again by the sea side ; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.

And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.

They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick : I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Now the shades of night are gone,
Now the morning light is come ;
Lord, may we be thine to-day,
Drive the shades of sin away.

Fill our souls with heavenly light,
Banish doubt and clear our sight ;
In thy service, Lord, to-day,
May we stand and watch and pray.

When our work of life is past,
Oh receive us then at last ;
Night and sin will be no more
When we reach the heavenly shore.

ALmighty One, who hast made this new morning to dawn upon us, may the everlasting day dawn upon our souls. May we not waste our lives in dalliance or sin. Aid us this day to gain some advance in holiness. Thou art opening before us the way of the divine life, calling us to the life of truth and courage and self-denial and loving-kindness, a life glorious and beautiful, — whose joy grows deeper and fuller day by day and year by year. O merciful One, help us, frail and sinful though we are, to live that blessed life, and to begin it to-day. So may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

JULY 8.

MAKE a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands :
Sing forth the honor of his name : make his praise glorious.

All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee ;
it shall celebrate thy name.

Come and see the works of God : he is wonderful in his
doing toward the children of men.

He ruleth by his power for ever ; his eyes behold the
nations : let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

O, bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his
praise to be heard :

Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet
to be moved.

DEAR ties of mutual succor bind
The children of our feeble race ;
And, if our brethren were not kind,
This earth were but a weary place.
We lean on others as we walk
Life's twilight path with pitfalls strewn,
And 'twere an idle boast to talk
Of treading that dim path alone.

Amid the snares misfortune lays,
Unseen, beneath the steps of all,
Blest is the love that seeks to raise
And stay and strengthen those who fall ;
Till, taught by Him who for our sake
Bore every form of life's distress,
With every passing year we make
The sum of human sorrows less.

LORD of all power and might, who art the author and
giver of all good things : graft in our hearts the love
of thy name ; increase in us true religion ; nourish us with
all goodness ; and of thy great mercy keep us in the same,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant, O Lord, we beseech
thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably
ordered by thy governance that thy church may joyfully
serve thee in all godly quietness, and the kingdom of thy
Son may prosper in all lands. Amen.

JULY 9.

AND in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also : for therefore came I forth.

And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will ; be thou clean.

And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

COME, Father of the poor, to earth ;
Come with thy gifts of precious worth ;
Come, Light of all of mortal birth !

Thou rich in comfort ! ever blest
The heart where thou art constant guest,
Who giv'st the heavy-laden rest.

Come, thou in whom our toil is sweet,
Our shadow in the noon-day heat,
Before whom mourning flieth fleet.

Bright Sun of grace ! thy sunshine dart
On all who cry to thee apart,
And fill with gladness every heart.

MERCIFUL God, whose forgiveness is ever ready for those who confess and forsake their sins : pardon us, we pray thee ; cleanse our hearts from all impure thoughts and unholy purposes, — from envy, hatred, and malice. May the sun not go down upon our wrath. May we live in peace, with conscience free of offence. And for thy manifold mercies we offer hearty thanks ; for life, and for reason ; for health and friends ; for food and raiment and shelter, and all the comforts of life ; above all, for the gospel of thy truth and love, for the aid of thy good Spirit, for the hope of immortality. Grant us grace so to live that we may be ever ready to die ; that, living or dying, we may be thine for ever. Amen.

JULY 10.

TRULY my soul waiteth upon God : from him cometh my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation ; he is my defence ; I shall not be greatly moved.

My soul, wait thou only upon God ; for my expectation is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation : he is my defence ; I shall not be moved.

In God is my salvation and my glory ; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Trust in him at all times ; ye people, pour out your heart before him : God is a refuge for us.

FATHER, whate'er of earthly bliss
Thy sovereign will denies,
Accepted at thy throne, let this,
My humble prayer, arise : —

Give me a calm and thankful heart,
From every murmur free ;
The blessings of thy grace impart,
And make me live to Thee ;

Let the sweet hope that thou art mine
My life and death attend ;
Thy presence through my journey shine,
And bless my journey's end.

HOLY and ever-blessed God : remove from us, we beseech thee, all unprofitable sadness, and give us an even tranquillity of mind, and a becoming cheerfulness of spirit ; inspiring us with an earnest desire and expectation of the blessings which thou hast promised to all them that with heart-felt repentance and true faith turn to thee. Grant, good Lord, we pray thee, that, having this glorious prospect always in our eyes, we may run the way of thy commandments with delight ; and, forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those that are before, may be still pressing forward toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Amen.

JULY 11.

O GOD, when thou didst go forth before thy people,
when thou didst march through the wilderness ;

The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God : even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

The Lord gave the word : great was the company of those that published it.

Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive : thou hast received gifts from men.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.

THY love, O God ! restores me
From sighs and tears to praise :
And deep my soul adores thee,
Nor thinks of time or place :
I ask no more, in good or ill,
But union with thy holy will.

'Tis that which makes my treasure,
'Tis that which brings my gain :
Converting woe to pleasure,
And reaping joy from pain.
Oh ! 'tis enough, whate'er befall,
To know that God is all in all.

IN the morning, O God, the voice of praise shall go up to thee : for thy providence doth overshadow us ; and thou dost watch our defenceless slumber ; and at night we will lie down at peace and sleep, for thou makest us to dwell in safety. The heavens declare thy glory, the earth rejoices and is glad at the visits of thy love ; and we, formed in thine image, endowed with thine inspiration, would join with universal nature, and call on all around and within us to magnify thy holy name. We humbly ask for those things thou seest we need. And the blessing we ask for ourselves, wilt thou graciously bestow upon all who are dear to us ? May we be bound together in faith and hope, and look forward to the blessed hour, when, after all the trials and separations of this mortal life, we shall meet around thy throne in heaven, and dwell together in unchanging confidence for ever. Amen.

JULY 12.

IF ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well :

But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

My soul, be on thy guard :
Ten thousand foes arise ;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies.

Oh, watch and fight and pray !
The battle ne'er give o'er ;
Renew it boldly every day,
And help divine implore.

Ne'er think the victory won,
Nor once at ease sit down :
Thy arduous work will not be done
Till thou obtain thy crown.

O GOD most holy, who hast abundantly assured us that, while thou art strict to punish those who continue in their sins, thou art a gracious and tender Father to the penitent, and wilt open thine ear in compassion to the prayers of all such as, with heartfelt shame and sorrow, confess their sins before thee : show us, we beseech thee, our transgressions as they truly are ; pardon us for the evil we have done ; judge us not for the good we have left undone ; work in us to will and to do thy good pleasure ; that, being sanctified by thy Spirit, we may serve thee in a religious and holy conversation, as true disciples of thy Son Jesus Christ. Search us, O Lord, and know our hearts. Try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us. And lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

JULY 13.

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

GOD of all grace, we come to thee
With broken, contrite hearts;
Give what thine eye delights to see, —
Truth in the inward parts.

Give deep humility; the sense
Of godly sorrow give;
A strong, desiring confidence,
To hear thy voice and live;

Patience to watch and wait and weep,
Though mercy long delay;
Courage our fainting souls to keep,
And trust thee, though thou slay.

O MERCIFUL Father, we take shame to ourselves that we have hitherto profited so little by thy forbearance and continuance of us in this life. With unfeigned sorrow we confess our sins before thee, seeking forgiveness at thy hands. And we thank thee, O Father of mercies, for the assurance of thy free pardon and acceptance, which thou hast offered to the penitent by our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to correct and amend whatever has been amiss in our conduct and dispositions; and preserve us from falling into any former sins, of all which we now sincerely repent before thee; and may we grow wiser and better by our past frailties. O Lord God, we beseech thee, let thy grace be sufficient for us. Amen.

JULY 14.

THOU waterest the hills from thy chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

Thou causest the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that thou mayest bring forth food out of the earth:

And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the Lord are full of sap: the cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted;

Where the birds make their nests: the stork has the fir-tree for her home.

The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

He appointeth the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth when to go down.

Go forth, my heart, and seek delight
In all the gifts of God's great might,
These pleasant summer hours.
Look how the plains, for thee and me,
Have decked themselves most fair to see,
All bright and sweet with flowers.

The corn springs up, a wealth untold,
A sight to gladden young and old,
Who now their voices lift
To him who gives such plenteous store,
And makes the cup of life run o'er
With many a noble gift.

BLESSED be the God of our salvation, who daily loadeth us with benefits. Thou givest us health, and fruitful seasons, and needful food, and fillest our hearts with gladness. Above all, we thank thee for bread from heaven, even the word of life. We mourn that we so fail to improve thy manifold mercies. Thou hast treated us as children, yet we have sinned against thee. We humbly beseech thee, who art ever ready to forgive, that thou wouldst pity our frailties and pardon our transgressions. May we forsake our evil ways, and return to thee with our whole hearts. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us, and grant us thy salvation. Amen.

JULY 15.

THE Lord is my light and my salvation : whom shall I fear ? the Lord is the strength of my life : of whom shall I be afraid ?

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after : that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the glory of the Lord.

For in the day of trouble he will hide me in his pavilion : in the secret place of his tabernacle will he shelter me ; he will set me upon a rock.

THE ship may sink, and I may drink
A hasty death in the bitter sea ;
But all that I leave in the ocean grave
Can be slipped and spared, and no loss to me.

What care I though falls the sky,
And the shrivelling earth to a cinder turn ?
No fires of doom can ever consume
What never was made nor meant to burn.

Let go the breath ! There is no death
To the living soul, nor loss nor harm :
Not of the clod is the life of God ;
Let it mount, as it will, from form to form.

WE make an offering to thee, O Father, of all our days. Thou hast counted them : we would know nothing more. All we ask is to die rather than live unfaithful to thee ; and if it be thy will that we depart, let us die in patience and love. Thou who holdest in thy hand the keys of the grave, to open and close it at thy will : give us not life if we shall love this earthly life too well. Living or dying, we would be thine. Take from us riches, honor, health, — every thing that would separate us from thee. Let our prayer rise to thee, O God, and on us let thy blessing descend. Amen.

JULY 16.

NOW after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

OH ! keep thy conscience sensitive,
No inward token miss ;
And go where grace entices thee :
Perfection lies in this.

Be docile to thine unseen Guide ;
Love him as he loves thee :
Time and obedience are enough,
And thou a saint shalt be !

HEAVENLY Father, help us so to live every day that our habitation shall become to us a house of God and a gate of heaven. We would worship thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. Suffer not the cares of the world and the anxieties of life to chill our devotions. Rather do we earnestly pray that we may present to thee the living sacrifice of obedient hearts and lives, and show our gratitude for all thy mercies by lives devoted to thy service. Deliver us, O our Father, from all blindness of heart ; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy ; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness ; from all inordinate and sinful affections ; from fleshly lusts that war against the soul ; from the deceits of the world ; from the counsel of the ungodly, and from all sin. Be near to help us in all time of our tribulation, in all time of our prosperity, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. Amen.

ONE of the scribes came, and asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel ; The Lord our God is one Lord :

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength : this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

COME, gracious Spirit, heavenly dove,
With light and comfort from above ;
Be thou our guardian, thou our guide,
O'er every thought and step preside.

Lead us to holiness, — the road
Which we must take to dwell with God ;
Lead us to Christ, — the living way, —
Nor let us from his pastures stray ;

Lead us to God, — our final rest, —
To be with him for ever blest ;
Lead us to heaven, its bliss to share,
Fulness of joy for ever there.

SPEAK, O Lord, for thy servants hear : we are thy servants ; grant us understanding that we may know thy testimonies. Incline our hearts to the words of thy mouth ; let thy speech distil as dew. Thou, O Lord God, art the inspirer and enlightener of all the prophets. Wonderfully do they speak ; but, if thou be silent, they inflame not the heart. They declare thy commandments ; but thou help us to fulfil them. They point out the way ; but thou givest strength to walk in it. Let not thy word be heard by us and not fulfilled, known and not loved, believed and not obeyed. Speak thou therefore unto us, O Lord, to the comfort of our souls, and to the amendment of our whole lives ; that thy peace may dwell in our hearts, and that in all things we may approve ourselves in thy sight as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JULY 18.

AND Jesus asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

WARRIOR! to thy duty stand,
Faithful to thy Captain's call;
With the shield of faith in hand,
Fearless, though thy comrades fall.
Nothing fill thee with dismay, —
Hunger, toil, or length of way;
In thy leader's victory boast:
Never, never leave thy post.

THOU whose eternal counsels are infinite wisdom, whose purposes are unfathomable love: fill us with that faith which shall overcome the world; with that love of Christ, from which neither tribulation, nor distress, nor peril, nor persecution shall separate us; with that love of God, which passeth all understanding: thus redeeming and sanctifying us to the praise of thy glorious grace. O God, our Father, look upon us in thy tender love. Pardon our sins. Lead us to true repentance. Incline our hearts to see our faults; that, seeing, we may repent truly and sincerely. Help us always to obey thee. Help us to follow the teachings of thy word and of conscience. Keep us in the right way, and save us from evil. We pray as disciples of the dear Redeemer. Amen.

JULY 19.

SAVE me, O God ; for the waters are come in unto my soul.

I will offer my prayer unto thee, O Lord : O God, in the greatness of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Let not the water-flood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the grave shut her mouth upon me.

Hear me, O Lord ; for thy loving-kindness is good : turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

And hide not thy face from thy servant ; for I am in trouble : hear me speedily.

WHEN tempests toss, and billows roll,
And lightnings rend from pole to pole,
Sweet is the thought to me,
That one day it shall not be so :
In the bright world to which I go,
The tempests shall forget to blow,
There shall be no more sea.

My Pilot tells me not to fear,
But trust entirely to his care ;
And he will guarantee,
If only I depend on him,
To land me safe in his good time,
In yonder purer, happier clime,
Where shall be no more sea.

O GOD, who forsakest none that place their confidence in thee : we pray thee, through thy Fatherly goodness and through Jesus thy beloved Son, give us a child-like trust in thee, and a constant mistrust in ourselves, that, in all our needs, anxieties, and dangers, we may seek thee as our refuge ; for thou knowest what is needful for us, and thou canst best help us. To thy loving-kindness we commit ourselves and all who are dear to us. Grant only, O holy Father, that we may never displease thee, but may always be faithful to our duty, while we wait with patience for the issues of thy gracious and all-wise providence. Amen.

JULY 20.

BUT be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass :

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

OH, he whom Jesus loved has truly spoken !
The holier worship, which God deigns to bless,
Restores the lost, and heals the spirit-broken,
And feeds the widow and the fatherless.

Then, brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother !
For where love dwells, the peace of God is there ;
To worship rightly is to love each other ;
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

Follow, with reverent steps, the great example
Of him whose holy work was doing good :
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

O LORD, the giver of eternal life, who liftest out of death and shame all faithful servants of thy truth, and settest even their humanity on high : give us grace always to contend for the right, and, if needs be, to suffer for it. Oh, lift us unto newness of life, and let us love thee and dwell with thee for ever. O thou who hast taught us that not the hearers of the word, but the doers, are justified in thy sight, send us forth with such growth in grace, that all our thoughts and words shall henceforth be more in harmony with thy gracious will ; and let thine almighty blessing be upon our uprising and our lying down, and upon our going out and coming in, now and for evermore. Amen.

JULY 21.

FOOLS make a mock at sin : but among the righteous there is favor. The heart knoweth his own bitterness : and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

In all labor there is profit. A true witness delivereth souls. In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence.

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding : but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

A sound heart is the life of the flesh.

He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker : but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor.

FORTH in thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue ;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
In all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
Oh ! let me cheerfully fulfil ;
In all thy works thy presence find,
And prove thy good and perfect will.

Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
And every moment watch and pray ;
And still to things eternal look,
And hasten to thy glorious day.

GIVER of all good, from whom all holy thoughts and desires proceed : grant us by thy inspiration thoughts that are pure and true. Mercifully consider our infirmities ; turn us from those evils that most justly we have deserved, and grant that in all trouble we may trust in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee faithfully. O Lord God of heaven and earth, for those who belong to us may we neither be without care, nor yet taken up with care as if we had not thee to care for us. But let us assure ourselves that thou wilt be our God, and the God of our children ; and wilt not leave them destitute of earthly blessings, for whom thou hast provided an eternal inheritance. With this confidence may we go on our way with cheerfulness, fulfilling every duty as it arises, and leaving all events trustfully to thee, our merciful God and Father. Amen.

JULY 22.

WHAT doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

WALK with the Lord! along the road
He will your strength renew!
Wait on the everlasting God,
And he will wait on you.

Ye shall not faint, ye shall not fail,
Still in the Spirit strong;
Each task divine ye still shall hail,
And blend the exulting song.

Your wondrous portion shall be this,
Your life below, above:
Eternal youth, eternal bliss,
And everlasting love.

O FATHER, dispose us to sincere sympathy with all men, not only to see extraordinary excellence with joy, but to take pleasure in the humblest improvements of our fellow-creatures and in the beginnings of everlasting life within them. Incline us to respect the feelings of others, so that we may never wound nor tempt nor depress a human being. May the labors of life become acts of religion and offerings to thee, by their conscientiousness, purity of motive, and devotedness to thy will of perfect good. May our sense of thy presence be ever more clear, our conceptions of thy character more bright, our gratitude more tender, our love of exalted virtue more generous, our good-will more overflowing. May a divine life be ever growing within us. And to thee be ascribed all praise for ever. Amen.

JULY 23.

LET God arise, and his enemies are scattered : and they that hate him flee before him.

But the righteous are glad ; they rejoice before God : yea, they exceedingly rejoice.

Sing unto God, sing praises to his name : extol him that rideth through the wilderness ; Jehovah is his name ; rejoice before him. A Father of the fatherless, and a Judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

God setteth the solitary in families : he bringeth to prosperity those which are bound with chains : but the rebellious dwell in a barren land.

Go not far from me, O my Strength,
Whom all my times obey ;
Take from me any thing thou wilt,
But go not thou away, —
And let the storm that does thy work
Deal with me as it may.

Safe in thy sanctifying grace,
Almighty to restore ;
Borne onward, — sin and death behind,
And love and life before, —
Oh ! let my soul abound in hope,
And praise thee more and more !

O THOU whose eye is over all the children of men, and who hast called them, by thy Prince of peace, into a kingdom not of this world : send forth his spirit speedily into the dark places of our guilt and woe, and arm it with the piercing power of thy grace. May it reach the heart of every oppression, and make arrogancy dumb before thee. Let it still the noise of our strife, and the tumult of the people ; put to shame the false idols of every mind ; carry faith to the doubting, hope to the fearful, strength to the weak, light to the mourner ; and more and more increase the pure in heart who see their God. Commit thy word, O Lord, to the lips of faithful men, or the free winds of thine invisible providence ; that soon the knowledge of thee may cover the earth, as the water covers the channels of the deep. And so let thy kingdom come through Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen.

JULY 24.

JESUS taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves : and he was transfigured before them.

And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow : so as no fuller on earth can white them.

And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses : and they were talking with Jesus.

And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here : and let us make three tabernacles ; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

For he wist not what to say ; for they were sore afraid.

And there was a cloud that overshadowed them : and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son : hear him.

YET high above the limits of my seeing,
And folded far within the inmost heart,
And deep below the deeps of conscious being,
Thy splendor shineth ; there, O God, thou art.

I cannot lose thee ! Still in thee abiding,
The end is clear, how wide so e'er I roam :
The law that holds the worlds my steps is guiding,
And I must rest at last in thee, my home.

O FATHER, make strong within us, we beseech thee, the hope of the immortal life. Purifying our hearts, may we enjoy even now that kingdom of heaven which is not meat and drink ; but is righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit. Here on earth may we, by the various steps of joy and sorrow, mount up to that high dwelling-place where we may taste those joys which heart hath not conceived, but which thy Spirit creates for every earnest and noble and aspiring soul. We pray thee that our daily lives may be a gospel unto men. May we cherish such divine sentiments, and ever speak such brave, true words, as shall be a prophecy of better things to come. So may thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

JULY 25.

BEHOLD, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with you: And this shall be the covenant that I will make with you;

I will put my law in your inward parts, and write it in your hearts; and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

And you shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for you shall all know me, from the least of you unto the greatest of you, saith the Lord: for I will forgive your iniquity, and I will remember your sin no more.

OH, how I fear thee, living God!
With deepest, tenderest fears,
And worship thee with trembling hope,
And penitential tears.
Yet I may love thee too, O Lord!
Almighty as thou art;
For thou hast stooped to ask of me
The love of my poor heart.

No earthly father loves like thee;
No mother half so mild
Bears and forbears as thou hast done
With me thy sinful child.
Only to sit and think of God,
Oh, what a joy it is!
To think the thought, to breathe the name, —
Earth has no higher bliss.

O GOD, let us not linger at the threshold of Christianity: conduct us into its inmost depths of life. Help us to break through the obstacles, the doubts, the despondency, lethargy, weakness, which hinder us. Open in us an unquenchable aspiration for truth and virtue. Give us a spirit of rational, filial, strong, unreserved, triumphant, glad obedience. Give us perfect confidence in thee, whose laws are the dictates of fatherly wisdom and love, and who dost delight in the purity and glory of thy children. Dispose us to see thy goodness everywhere, — not only when descending upon us, but when diffused abroad, — so that we may discern the love which pervades the universe and quickens all spirits. Amen.

JULY 26.

SACRIFICE and offering thou didst not desire ; so hast thou taught me : burnt-offering and sin-offering hast thou not required.

I delight to do thy will, O my God : yea, thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation : lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.

I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart ; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation : I have not concealed thy loving-kindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

SEND down thy truth, O God !
Too long the shadows frown ;
Too long the darkened way we've trod :
The truth, O Lord ! send down.

Send down thy love, thy life,
Our lesser lives to crown,
And cleanse them of their hate and strife :
Thy living love send down.

Send down thy peace, O Lord !
Earth's bitter voices drown
In one deep ocean of accord :
Thy peace, O God ! send down.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind : we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men ; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for the good estate of the church universal ; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy Fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate ; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we humbly ask as disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 27.

THOU wilt swallow up death in victory ; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces ; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth : for the Lord hath spoken it.

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys : I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water ;

That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

O BLESSED life ! the heart at rest,
When all without tumultuous seems ;
That trusts a higher will, and deems
That higher will, not mine, the best :

O blessed life ! heart, mind, and soul
From self-born aims and wishes free,
In all at one with Deity,
And loyal to the Lord's control :

O life ! how blessed ! how divine !
High life, the earnest of a higher :
Father ! fulfil my deep desire,
And let this blessed life be mine !

O THOU to whom belong mercies and forgiveness : receive our humble petitions ; and, though we be bound with the chain of our sins, yet in the pitifulness of thy great mercy, O Lord, help us, we beseech thee, that we may be set free, and be admitted to the glorious liberty of the sons of God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. If thou wert strict to mark iniquity, O Lord, who could stand ? May we so remember our sins as to forsake them ; and then do thou remember them no more. Hide not thine ear at our breathing, at our cry. Thou, O God, hast pleaded the cause of our souls ; thou hast redeemed our life. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good ; his mercy endureth for ever. Amen.

JULY 28.

THOU visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water:

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with corn: they shout for joy; they also sing

ALL around us, fair with flowers,
Fields of beauty sleeping lie;
All around us clarion voices
Call to duty stern and high.

Thankfully we will rejoice in
All the beauty God has given;
But beware it does not win us
From the work ordained of Heaven.

Following every voice of mercy
With a trusting, loving heart,
Let us in life's earnest labor
Still be sure to do our part.

Now, to-day, and not to-morrow,
Let us work with all our might,
Lest the wretched faint and perish
In the coming stormy night.

Now, to-day, and not to-morrow, —
Lest, before to-morrow's sun,
We too, mournfully departing,
Shall have left our work undone.

O GOD, the Author of nature, the Source of all power, wisdom, and happiness; whose energy sustains, whose presence animates, and whose gracious influence blesses, the universe: assist us, we beseech thee, to form worthy apprehensions of thy nature and character, and, as far as our faculties will permit, to become acquainted with thy perfections and providence. And let our conceptions of thee produce in us the sentiments of veneration, gratitude, and submission, and lead us to a diligent imitation of thy moral perfections, and a constant obedience to thy laws, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

JULY 29.

THE seed is the word of God.

Those by the way-side are they that hear ; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy ; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand ; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper this or that, or whether they both alike shall be good.

THOU canst not toil in vain :
Cold, heat, and moist and dry,
Shall foster and mature the grain
For garners in the sky.

Then when the glorious end,
The day of God, shall come,
The angel-reapers shall descend
At heaven's great harvest-home.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God : give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity ; and may we not only obtain that which thou dost promise, but also love that which thou dost command. O thou, who dost teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit : grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in thy holy comfort. O God, whose promises exceed all that we could desire or understand : grant us, we beseech thee, the greatest of all blessings, — thy love shed abroad in our hearts, that we may render to thee a ready and joyful obedience as true disciples of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

AND when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion beseeching him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home, sick of the palsy, and grievously tormented.

And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof ; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me ; and I say unto this man, Go, and he goeth ; and to another, Come, and he cometh ; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

O LOVE, how cheering is thy ray !
 All pain before thy presence flies ;
 Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away
 Where'er thy healing beams arise :
 O Father ! nothing may I see,
 And naught desire or seek, but thee.

Unwearied may I this pursue,
 Dauntless to this high prize aspire ;
 Each hour within my soul renew
 This holy flame, this heavenly fire ;
 And day and night be all my care
 To guard the sacred treasure there.

O THOU who alone art just and good, help of the helpless, and Father of all souls : we give thee grateful thanks for thy forbearance and mercy to thy sinful children. Burdened with a sense of shortcoming and sin, suffering with the bitter reproach of conscience for wrongs committed and duties neglected, we fly to thee. Thy grace is sufficient for our every need. Thou canst make our souls a habitation of peace, penetrating every recess with thy tender love. Oh ! speak the word, thy servants shall be healed. Amen.

JULY 31.

BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord ; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked : but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about.

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous : and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

THERE is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven :
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

For we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own ;
And we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he will not own.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word ;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father : we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done ; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent ; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, that through him we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

AUGUST 1.

THE hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. The hour cometh and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Oh for freedom, for freedom in worshipping God ;
For the mountain-top freedom of generous souls, —
For the wealth, for the air, of the hearts deep and broad,
Where grace not in rills, but in cataracts rolls !

Most good is the brisk, wholesome service of fear,
And the calm wise obedience of conscience is sweet ;
And good are all worships, all loyalties dear,
All promptitudes fitting, all services meet.

But none honors God like the thirst of desire,
Nor possesses the heart so completely with him ;
For it burns the world out with the swift ease of fire,
And fills life with good works till it runs o'er the brim.

THOU whose throne is in the heavens, and whose kingdom is from everlasting: every moment thy grace attends us, and blessings descend upon us without ceasing. Oh ! build thine altar in our hearts, and let the incense of our gratitude ascend for ever. Thou hast given us the liberty to worship thee according to the dictates of our conscience, with none to molest us or make us afraid. Oh ! shed into our souls thy Spirit, O Lord ; for where thy Spirit is there is liberty. Let not wealth and pleasure be our idols ; but may we be that happy people whose God is the Lord. May thy truth and thy service make us free indeed. Thine, O Lord, is the might and majesty and dominion for ever. Amen.

AUGUST 2.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High.

To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work : I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

O Lord, how great are thy works ! and thy thoughts are very deep. The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree : he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God ; to show that the Lord is upright : he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

THOU, Lord, who rear'st the mountain's height,
And mak'st the cliffs with sunshine bright,
Oh, grant that we may own thy hand
No less in every grain of sand !

Teach us that not a leaf can grow
Till life from thee within it flow ;
That not a grain of dust can be,
O Fount of being ! save by thee ;

That every human word and deed,
Each flash of feeling, will, or creed,
Hath solemn meaning from above,
Begun and ended all in love.

O LORD, set us where thou wilt, and deal with us in all things just as thou wilt. Behold, we are thy servants, prepared for all things ; for we desire not to live unto ourselves, but unto thee ; and oh, that we could do it worthily and perfectly ! Grant to us, above all things that can be desired, to rest in thee and in thee to have our hearts at peace. Blessed be thou, our God ; for, although we be unworthy of any benefits, yet thy noble bounty and infinite love never cease to do good, even to the ungrateful, and to those who are turned far away from thee. Turn thou us unto thee, that we may be thankful, humble, and devout. Amen

AUGUST 3.

SING unto the Lord ; for he hath done excellent things : this is known in all the earth. Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord ; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.

He shall judge among the nations, and govern the people ; and they shall beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks.

Nation shall not lift up the sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

WORKMAN of God ! oh, lose not heart,
But learn what God is like ;
And in the darkest battle-field
Thou shalt know where to strike.
Thrice blest is he to whom is given
The instinct that can tell
That God is on the field when he
Is most invisible.

Blest, too, is he who can divine
Where real right doth lie,
And dares to take the side that seems
Wrong to man's blindfold eye.
For right is right, since God is God,
And right the day must win :
To doubt would be disloyalty ;
To falter would be sin.

GIVER of life : we dedicate our lives to thee. As a faithful father admonishes his children, thou, Lord, hast warned us against all wrong and harm. And for our sakes, that our hearts might be touched, that the chains of sin might be broken, and the gloom of the grave dispelled, Jesus Christ hath come, filled with the Spirit and breathing the love of the Universal Father. Father of the spirits of all flesh, thou who hast made us all of one blood : we desire the good of all men. Scatter the clouds of ignorance ; break asunder the bands of sin ; rebuke the folly and wickedness of man ; and inspire all with that reverence for thy truth, and regard for thy law, which will make them truly free. Incline them to break every yoke : and proclaim freedom and light and good-will to all who sit in darkness. Amen.

AUGUST 4.

O WORSHIP the Lord in the beauty of holiness : fear before him, all the earth.

Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth : the world shall stand firm, it shall not be moved : he shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad ; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein : then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice,

Before the Lord ; for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth : he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Give glory to the Lord your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death.

BE thou, O God, by night, by day,
My guide, my guard from sin,
My life, my trust, my light divine
To keep me pure within ; —

Pure as the air when day's first light
A cloudless sky illumines ;
And active as the lark that soars
Till heaven shines round its plumes :

So may my soul upon the wings
Of faith unwearied rise,
Till at the gate of heaven it sings,
'Midst light from Paradise.

O GOD, who showest thyself the Father of our spirits, not fashioned in stone, nor bound by temples made with hands, but dwelling in man's heart, yet filling the heavens with thy majesty : grant us the grace of meekness, in humility to fulfil all righteousness ; and so baptize us in thy Holy Spirit, and so enable us to offer our lives in the sacrament of charity, that we may praise thee in heart, and worship thee with understanding ; while thou givest us in godliness the blessing of the truth, which is now and of that which shall be eternal. Amen.

AUGUST 5.

FOR my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

THY word, O Lord, like gentle dews,
Falls soft on hearts that pine;
Lord, to thy garden ne'er refuse
This heavenly balm of thine.
Watered from thee, let every tree
Bud forth and blossom to thy praise,
And bear much fruit in after days.

Thy word a wondrous guiding star
On pilgrim hearts doth rise,
Leads to their Lord who dwells afar,
And makes the simple wise.
Let not its light e'er sink in night,
But still in every spirit shine,
That none may miss the light divine.

GOD, our heavenly Father, quicken in us, we beseech thee, every good and pure thought, and strengthen us in our devout resolves this day. Let no unhallowed words pollute the tongues which thou hast made to praise and bless thee; no evil action defile the sanctuaries which thou hast, in thy wondrous mercy, chosen for thyself. Remove whatever in us may be a hindrance to holy living, or a stumbling-block in another's way. May our trust in thee, and our kindness to one another, never fail. May we bring to thee not only a humble spirit of obedience, but also great love. O Lord God, make us what thou wouldest have us to be, and may we do what thou wouldest have us to do; only be thou ever with us to cleanse and renew, to teach, rule, and sustain us, till at last we come to thee, to dwell for ever with thee and thy saints in light. Amen.

AUGUST 6.

WE glory in tribulations ; knowing that tribulation worketh patience ; and patience, experience ; and experience, hope :

And hope maketh not ashamed ; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ : for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth ; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith : as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

THOU'RT with me, O my Father,
At early dawn of day ;
It is thy glory brighteneth
The upward streaming ray.
It calls me by its beauty
To rise and worship thee ;
I feel thy glorious presence,
Thy face I may not see.

Thou'rt with me, O my Father,
In changing scenes of life,
In loneliness of spirit,
In weariness of strife.
My sufferings, my comforts,
Alternate at thy will :
I trust thee, O my Father,
I trust thee, and am still.

O GOD, who hast in divers manners manifested the truth amongst the nations, mercifully grant that we may have the enjoyment of thy nearer presence, and know thee according to the grace and truth which dwelt in Jesus Christ thy Son. Grant us grace to learn that by the Spirit of our God is understanding ; and raise us up by thy power, and with thy great might succor us, that, being delivered from an evil mind, and enlightened by thy Holy Spirit, we may both know our duty and perform the same to thy honor, who art our living strength and our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 7.

TAKE, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord ; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Is any among you afflicted ? let him pray. Is any merry ? let him sing psalms.

Is any sick among you ?

The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up ; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

WHY should I murmur ? for the sorrow
Thus only longer lived would be ;
Its end may come, and will, to-morrow,
When God has done his work in me ;
So I say, trusting, — As God will !
And, trusting to the end, hold still.

He kindles, for my profit purely,
Affliction's glowing, fiery brand ;
And all his heaviest blows are surely
Inflicted by a Master hand :
So I say, praying, — As God will !
And hope in him, and suffer still.

MAY every day, O our Father, add brightness and energy to our conceptions of thy lovely and glorious character. Give us a deeper sense of thy presence, and instruct us to nourish our devoutness by every scene of nature and every event of Providence. Assist us to consecrate our whole being and existence to thee ; our understandings to the knowledge of thy character, our hearts to the veneration and love of thy perfections, our wills to the choice of thy commands, our active energies to the accomplishment of thy purposes, every power to the imitation of thy goodness, and our lives to thy glory. Be thou the centre, life, and sovereign of our souls. Amen.

AUGUST 8.

BOW down thine ear, O Lord, hear me : for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my soul ; O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord : for I cry unto thee daily.

Rejoice the soul of thy servant : for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive ; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer ; and attend to the voice of my supplication.

LEAD, kindly Light ! amid the encircling gloom,

Lead thou me on !

The night is dark, and I am far from home :

Lead thou me on !

Keep thou my feet ; I do not ask to see

The distant scene, — one step enough for me.

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still

Will lead me on,

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till

The night is gone ;

And with the morn those angel faces smile

Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

WE bow before thee, O God, in faith and trust. In thy hand is our life. We rejoice to believe that thou doest all things well ; that life and death come alike by thy will, and both are for good and not for evil. We thank thee for the comfort of the gospel ; that it brings life and immortality to light ; for its assurance that in thy house are many mansions prepared for all that love thee. O Father, comfort those that are in sorrow, and enable them to say, Thy will be done. Help us to live purely and truly before thee : so that each one shall be ready for thy summons to the better world, and go not with grief, but with joyful trust. Help us to live now in the spirit of him who was ready to die for truth and for humanity, that men might live better lives on earth and die in a brighter and surer hope of heaven. Amen.

AUGUST 9.

HENCEFORTH I call you not servants ; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth : but I have called you friends ; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain ; that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own ; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

HEAVENLY Father ! to whose eye
Future things unfolded lie,
Through the desert when I stray,
Let thy counsels guide my way.

Lord ! uphold me day by day ;
Shed a light upon my way ;
Guide me through perplexing snares ;
Care for me in all my cares.

Should thy wisdom, Lord, decree
Trials long and sharp for me, —
Pain or sorrow, care or shame, —
Father ! glorify thy name.

Let me neither faint nor fear,
Feeling still that thou art near ;
In the course my Saviour trod,
Tending home to thee, my God.

O ETERNAL Father, fill our souls, we beseech thee, with so deep a sense of the excellences of spiritual and heavenly things, that, our affections being weaned from the vanities of the world and the false allurements of sin, we may, with clear resolutions and a free spirit, have our conversation in heaven ; remembering that we are but pilgrims and strangers here, and seeking a country, even that blessed home which our Saviour is gone to prepare for us. Amen.

AUGUST 10.

I MUST work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Oh! cleanse us that we sin no more;
O'er parched souls thy waters pour;
Heal the sad heart that acheth sore.
Thy will be ours in all our ways;
Oh! melt the frozen with thy rays;
Call home the lost in error's maze.

And grant us, Lord, who cry to thee,
And hold the faith in unity,
Thy precious gifts of charity;
That we may live in holiness,
And find in death our happiness,
And dwell with thee in lasting bliss.

HEAR our prayers, O Lord, and may it please thee to establish thy truth on earth as it is in heaven. Defend us from dangerous enemies of the soul; and make us persevere in all good works. Give us inward armor against evil thoughts and passions. Let thy mercy and pity keep us safe. Grant us the will and power to repent in earnest. Give us pardon and entire escape from all our sins. And oh! send us a right faith, firm hope in thy goodness, and that perfect love of thee that casteth out fear. May it please thee to remove from us hatred and envy, and all evil thoughts. Pour into our souls the grace of thy Holy Spirit, and send us perpetual light. May it please thee to give us a useful life and happy end, and bring us to everlasting joys. Grant thine aid to those who are running their course; give compunction to the negligent, fervor of spirit to the lukewarm, and unto us all a good consummation. Amen.

AUGUST 11.

FOR thou, O God, hast proved us : thou hast tried us, as silver is tried. Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me : but verily God hath heard me ; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

VOICES are round me ; smiles are near ;
Kind welcomes to be had :
And yet my spirit is alone,
Fretful, outworn, and sad.

Sweet thought of God, now do thy work
As thou hast done before ;
Wake up, and tears will wake with thee,
And the dull mood be o'er.

The very thinking of the thought,
Without or praise or prayer,
Gives light to know, and life to do,
And marvellous strength to bear.

O LORD God, thou art our refuge and our hope : on thee alone we rest ; for we find all to be weak and insufficient but thee. Many friends cannot profit, nor strong helpers assist, nor prudent counsellors advise, nor the books of the learned afford comfort, nor any precious substance deliver, nor any place give shelter, unless thou thyself dost assist, strengthen, console, instruct, and guard us. To thee, therefore, do we lift up our eyes ; in thee, our God, the Father of mercies, do we put our trust. Bless and sanctify our souls, that they may become thy holy habitation, and the seat of thine eternal glory ; and let nothing be found in us displeasing in thy sight. Protect and keep us amidst all dangers ; and, accompanying us by thy grace, direct us along the way of peace to thine everlasting home. Amen.

AUGUST 12.

VERILY, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheep-fold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth ; and the sheep hear his voice : and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him : for they know his voice.

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him ; for they know not the voice of strangers.

This parable spake Jesus unto them ; but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

THE Lord my shepherd is,
And he my soul will keep ;
He knoweth who are his,
And watcheth o'er his sheep :
Away with every anxious fear,
I cannot want while he is near.

His wisdom doth provide
The pasture where I feed ;
Where the still waters glide
Along the quiet mead,
He leads my feet ; and, when I roam,
O'ertakes and brings the wanderer home.

GOD of our lives, the night and the day are thine. The events of the coming hours are in thy hand. Fill us with child-like obedience and trust. May we rest on thee, and accept thy guidance through the unknown trials and temptations of the opening day. Help us to believe that our lives are ordered by thy love ; that thou knowest our path ; and that now, as in times past, our strength shall be equal to our need. Be not far from us ; uphold and comfort us by thy spiritual presence. May we obey thy holy laws, lean on thy faithful providence, and live in love, till the evening shadows fall, and we rest again under thy tender care. Bless us now and evermore. Amen.

AUGUST 13.

I AM the door : by me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy : I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd : the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth ; and the wolf catcheth them and scattereth the sheep.

The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Lo, my Shepherd's hand divine !
Want shall never more be mine.
In a pasture fair and large
He shall feed his happy charge,
And my couch with tenderest care
'Midst the springing grass prepare.

When I faint with summer's heat,
He shall lead my weary feet
To the streams that, still and slow,
Through the verdant meadow flow ;
When through devious paths I stray,
He shall teach the better way.

Though the dreary vale I tread
By the shades of death o'erspread,
I shall walk from terror free,
While each needed strength I see
By thy rod and staff supplied ;
This my guard, and that my guide.

NOT as being worthy, but trusting in thy loving-kindness, O God most High, we draw near to thee. Not as we would, but as we are able, we bring to thee our devout offerings. Purify us, we beseech thee, from all guile ; unite us to one another in the bonds of love and peace ; pour down upon us thy spiritual gifts ; and grant us every blessing in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 14.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

PLEASANT are thy courts above,
In the land of light and love;
Pleasant are thy courts below,
In this land of sin and woe.
Oh! my spirit longs and fains
For the converse of thy saints,
For the brightness of thy face,
King of glory, God of grace.

Lord, be mine thy prize to win;
Guide me through a world of sin;
Keep me by thy saving grace;
Give me at thy side a place.
Sun and shield alike thou art,
Guide and guard my erring heart;
Grace and glory flow from thee,
Shower, oh! shower them, Lord, on me.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, for all thy loving-kindness to us: for forming us after thine own image, for creating us anew by thy dear son, for quickening us by thy Holy Spirit, for helping us in our necessities and dangers, comforting us in our tribulations and sorrows, and sparing us from the punishments we justly have deserved, we heartily thank thee. O thou who didst send thy Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, and who by thy Son callest the wanderers home; who by thy Holy Spirit dost comfort, direct, and sanctify the hearts of thy faithful servants: have mercy upon us. Remember not, Lord, our offences; spare us, good Lord, spare thy people for thy great love as shown to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST 15.

THEREFORE thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

WHATE'ER my God ordains is right;
His will is ever just;
Howe'er he order now my cause,
I will be still and trust.
He is my God;
Though dark my road,
He holds me that I shall not fall;
Wherefore to him I leave it all.

Whate'er my God ordains is right
He never will deceive;
He leads me by the proper path,
And so to him I cleave,
And take content
What he hath sent,
His hand can turn my griefs away,
And patiently I wait his day.

ALMIGHTY God, maker of all things, whose we are, and on whom we entirely depend: we thank thee for refreshing slumber, for protection from the dangers that walk in darkness, for the light and privilege of each passing day. Thou art always with us, continually doing us good. All the blessings that enrich our life come from thee, our Father and best Friend. Thy mercies are without number, and never fail. Accept our thanks; and may the abundance of thy gifts never betray us to forget thee, the Giver. May our treasure on earth never lead us to neglect the enduring treasure of heaven. But wilt thou help us so to use things temporal as by them to gain things eternal? Amen.

AUGUST 16.

THE word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach ;

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness ; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek : for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things !

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

LONG had the darkness of ages surrounded
Earth and its sons, when the day-star on high
Broke from the mists, and with glory unbounded
Held its high course through the jubilant sky.

O'er us it shines ; and shall shine on for ever,
Fixed like a sun in the centre of all :
Never shall darkness o'ershadow us ; never
Sorrow and sadness our hearts shall appal.

THY mercies, O God, are renewed to us every day. May our gratitude and obedience bear fit proportion to thy great favor. May we revere and obey thee, and glorify thy name among men. We would set thee before us in all our ways: may we never undertake what we cannot ask thee to prosper ; may we pursue only that which thou wilt approve. Assist us, O Lord, in our daily duty. May it be our aim and desire every day to come nearer to thee, and to welcome every experience, whether of joy or trial, that shall bring us to God. May the hope of immortality sustain, cheer, and guide us that we may acceptably serve thee now and for ever. Amen.

AUGUST 17.

THE heavens are thine, the earth also is thine : as for the world, and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.

The north and the south, thou hast created them : Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name.

Thou hast a mighty arm : strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

Justice and judgment are the foundation of thy throne : mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound : they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.

In thy name shall they rejoice all the day : and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

For thou art the glory of their strength ; and in thy favor our heads shall be exalted.

For the Lord is our defence ; and the Holy One of Israel is our King.

I HAVE no comfort but thy love ;
Without it, life is death to me ;
Joyless through all its joys I move,
Hopeless through all its misery :
Yet, trusting thee, I daily prove
The blessed comfort of thy love.

Grateful my songs arise to thee
With morning's dawn and evening's fall ;
For thou hast ever been to me
My light, my life, mine all in all :
My day is night if thou remove ;
I have no comfort but thy love.

STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the zeal of thy faithful people : that the yoke of thy law may become easy to them ; that their Christian love may work all the miracles of grace, till from grace it pass to glory, from earth to heaven, from duty to reward, from the weakness of a commencing and growing affection to the consummation of eternal charity and a complete union with thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST 18.

COME, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O, come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

ALL the charities that start
From the fountains of the heart,
These are voices from above,
Sweetly whispering, "God is love."

Earth, with her ten thousand flowers,
Air, with all its beams and showers, —
All around, and all above,
Hath this record, "God is love."

Sounds among the vales and hills,
In the woods, and in the rills, —
All these songs, beneath, above,
Have one burthen, "God is love."

THOU who hast again said, "Let there be light," and light fills the world: truly the light is sweet, and pleasant it is to behold the glad beams of the sun. Oh, may our souls be full of light, and our hearts joyful with the gladness of loving and obedient lives! May we know that the paths of sin are ways of bitterness and of death, while the paths of wisdom and righteousness are ways of pleasantness and peace. May we this day set our faces heavenward. Forgetting the things that are behind, — neither satisfied by past success, nor discouraged by past failure, — may we reach forward to the things that are before, and press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 19.

DRAW nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another, brethren.

Go to now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain :

Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

But now ye rejoice in your boastings : all such rejoicing is evil.

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

SOURCE of good, whose power controls
Every movement of our souls ;
Wind that quickens where it blows ;
Comforter of human woes ;
Flame of pure and holy love ;
Strength of all that live and move, —
Come ! thy gifts and fire impart ;
Make me love thee from the heart !

Mighty Spirit ! by whose aid
Man a living soul was made ;
Everlasting God ! whose fire
Kindles chaste and pure desire, —
Grant, in every grief and loss,
I may calmly bear the cross ;
And surrender all to thee,
Comforting and strengthening me !

O ALMIGHTY God, do thou assist us with thy grace, that we may be able to serve thee worthily and devoutly, in all purity, and with a good conscience. And if we live not in so great innocency as we ought to do, grant to us, at the least, sincerely to lament the sins we have committed ; and, in the spirit of humility, and with the full purpose of a good will, to resolve that we will serve thee more steadfastly for the time to come. Amen.

AUGUST 20.

SWEAR not at all ; neither by heaven ; for it is God's throne :

Nor by the earth ; for it is his footstool :

But let your communication be, Yea, yea ; Nay, nay : for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth :

But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil : but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

TURN not from him who asks of thee
A portion of thy store ;
Thou poor in worldly goods may'st be,
Yet canst give what is more.

The balm of comfort thou canst pour
Into his grieving mind,
Who oft is turned from wealth's proud door,
With many a word unkind.

Do thou raise up his drooping heart,
Restore his wounded mind ;
Though naught of wealth thou canst impart,
Yet still thou may'st be kind.

LORD, who dost search the heart, and know our most secret thoughts : we beseech thee, for thy fatherly goodness' sake, to save us both from false peace and from unreasonable alarm. Enable us to discover and cast out from our hearts whatever is displeasing to thee, and to amend whatever is amiss in our lives. And wilt thou, who lovest us better than we know, forgive all our past sins ; both blotting out the stain, and setting us free from the power of evil ? And for the time to come, may we be persuaded of thy goodness that all thine appointments are in mercy ; and with such faith let us walk on our paths in unshaken calmness, having committed our souls to him who knoweth whereof we are made, and reckoneth not our shortcomings for ever. Amen.

AUGUST 21.

VERILY, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life ; and I will raise him up at the last day.

For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father ; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

This is that bread which came down from heaven : not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead : he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

THY bounteous hand with food can bless
The bleak and lonely wilderness ;
And thou hast taught us, Lord, to pray
For daily bread from day to day.

And, oh ! when through the wilds we roam
That part us from our heavenly home ;
When, lost in danger, want, and woe,
Our faithless tears begin to flow, —

Do thou thy gracious comfort give,
By which alone the soul may live ;
And grant thy servants, Lord, we pray,
The bread of life from day to day.

O FATHER, the day and the night alike are thine. In the daylight of joy and duty, may we be thankful and obedient. In the darkness of trial and grief, we would cheerfully accept whatever lot thy wise love shall ordain. Do with us as thou wilt, O Lord. Drawing nigh to Jesus by faith, may his fidelity and submission inspire us to go forth upon our Father's work, and, when the bitter cup is offered, to say, " Father, thy will, not mine, be done." And whether called to part with earthly treasure, or friends dear to our hearts, give us grace still to say, " The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Amen.

AUGUST 22.

THE Lord reigneth ; let the earth rejoice ; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

Clouds and darkness are round about him : righteousness and judgment are the foundation of his throne.

The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the up-right in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous ; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

SWEET morn ! from countless cups of gold,
Thou liftest reverently on high
More incense fine than earth can hold,
To fill the sky.

In man, O morn ! a loftier good,
With conscious blessing, fills the soul, —
A life by reason understood,
Which metes the whole.

From earth and earthly toil and strife
To deathless aims his soul may rise ;
Each dawn may wake to better life,
With purer eyes.

Such grace from thee, O God, be ours,
Renewed with every morning's ray,
And freshening still with added flowers
Each future day.

WE thank thee, O Lord, for the pleasant light of life, and for that gracious providence which again pours round us the cheerful beams of day. We bow ourselves before thee in adoration and prayer ; and invoke thy Spirit, the Spirit of life and of love, to sanctify our hearts and lips. We exist for thine eternal will, that we may be fellow-laborers with thee, and share in thy power and blessedness. Thou hast made us but little lower than the angels. Thou hast crowned us with glory and honor, and given us dominion over the works of thy hands. Help us worthily and acceptably to serve thee, and may we ever live to thy glory. Amen.

AUGUST 23.

MAKE haste, O God, to deliver me ; make haste to help me, O Lord.

Let them be ashamed that seek after my soul : let them be turned backward that desire my hurt.

But let all those that seek thee, rejoice, and be glad in thee : and let such as love thy salvation, say continually, Let God be magnified.

But I am poor and needy ; make haste unto me, O God : thou art my help and my deliverer ; O Lord, make no delay.

WHEN summer suns their radiance fling,
O'er every bright and beauteous thing ;
When, strong in faith, the evil day
Of pain and grief seems far away ;
When sorrow soon as felt is gone,
And smooth the stream of life runs on ;
When duty, cheerful, chosen, free,
Brings her own prompt reward to thee, —
'Tis easy then, my soul, to raise,
The grateful song of heavenly praise.

GRACIOUS Lord, infinite in goodness, of whose love not only the prosperity of thy people, but even also their afflictions, are proofs : may we at all times remember and feel that thou art our Father ; and that thou art no less tender and merciful to us when thou chastenest us than when thou surroundest us with every comfort and indulgence. Though, however, we ask not exemption from sorrow, — which is the lot of the saints in light, — we yet ask that we may not be left to the sorrows of nature without the consolations of thy Spirit : and though we ask not for plenitude of good things without alloy of suffering, — for that is the life of glory, — we yet pray that we may not suffer thy chastisements without comfort, but may experience chastisements and comforts together ; and that in due time our afflictions may be removed, and our joys only remain. But in all things, we would commit ourselves into thy hands. Thou alone knowest what is best for us ; and do thou grant that, with a humble and perfect submission, and in entire confidence, and with heartfelt adoration, we may receive all the allotments of thy divine providence. Amen.

AUGUST 24.

AND he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman, since the time I came in, hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

O God, the pure alone —
E'en in their deep confessing —
Can see thee as their own,
And find the perfect blessing;
Yet to each waiting soul,
Speak in thy still small voice,
Till broken Love's made whole
And saddened hearts rejoice.

MOST mighty God and merciful Father, who hast compassion on all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made; who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live: manifold are our offences, and only as sinful can we appear before thee. We are not worthy to be called thy children. Receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our transgressions. Mercifully forgive and help us, O Lord our God. O thou who madest water spring out of a rock for thy people in their thirst, draw from our stony hearts the tears of compunction, that we may truly bewail our sins; and, as our consciences by sin are accused, so by thy fatherly goodness may we be pardoned, and received into the fellowship of Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST 25.

THEN took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment.

Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

This he said, not that he cared for the poor: but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

AND now I pray for love,
Deep love to God and man;
A love that will not fail,
However dark his plan;
That sees all life in him,
Rejoicing in his power;
And faithful, though the darkest clouds
Of gloom and doubt may lower:
And God was kinder than my prayer;
Love filled and blessed me everywhere.

WE thank thee, O Father, for the blessed gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ; for the light it sheds on thy nature, character, and providence, — on the path of our duty, and on the future world. May this glorious light shine into our hearts, and cheer and sustain us, and lead us through the scenes and trials of this life to the endless felicities of thy kingdom above. Amen.

AUGUST 26.

AND when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother.

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

COME to me, Lord, when first I wake,
As the faint lights of morning break;
Bid purest thoughts within me rise,
Like crystal dewdrops, to the skies.

Come to me in the evening shade;
And if my heart from thee have strayed,
Oh, bring it back, and from afar
Smile on me like thine evening star!

Come to me through life's varied way;
And when its pulses cease to play,
Then, Father, bid me come to thee,
That where thou art thy child may be.

GIVE us grace, O Lord, to endeavor to do thy will with the same diligence and industry, the same zeal and cheerfulness, as thy blessed angels do it in heaven; that, imitating their exemplary obedience and unspotted purity while we are in this life, we may be permitted to be fellow-workers with them in thine everlasting kingdom. Amen.

AUGUST 27.

JUDGE not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

It is the spirit that quickeneth ; the flesh profiteth nothing ; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Jesus said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory ; but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

SILENT Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would quiet be :
Quiet as the growing blade
Which through earth its way has made ;
Silently, like morning light,
Putting mists and chills to flight.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would mighty be, —
Mighty so as to prevail
Where unaided man must fail,
Ever by a mighty hope
Pressing on and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me ;
I myself would holy be :
Separate from sin, I would
Choose and cherish all things good ;
And whatever I can be
Give to him who gave me thee !

ALmighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking : we beseech thee to have compassion on our infirmities ; and those things, which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us in the fulness of that tender love and care for us, which thou hast made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST 28.

FOR the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I, myself, serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

LIGHT of life, seraphic fire!
Love divine, thyself impart;
Every fainting soul inspire;
Enter every drooping heart;
Every mournful spirit cheer;
Scatter all our doubt and gloom:
Father, in thy grace appear,
To thy human temples come!

Come in this accepted hour,
Bring thy heavenly kingdom in;
Fill us with thy glorious power,
Rooting out the seeds of sin.
Nothing more can we require;
We can rest in nothing less:
Be thou all our heart's desire,
All our joy, and all our peace.

O LORD, put thy good Spirit into all our hearts: that we, being made pure and holy in our secret thoughts, may not fail to perform all that is acceptable in thy sight. May we have an eye single to thy glory; and may we undertake no employment on which we cannot ask thy blessing. Give us grace that we may desire to do that which is most excellent. May no spirit of self-indulgence, no love of ease, no dread of opposition, no fear of shame, prevent our laying out our lives heartily in thy service. Make us willing to deny ourselves that we may live unto thee. Give us the spirit of thy children of old, who counted not their lives dear to themselves, that they might finish their course with joy. Amen.

AUGUST 29.

JESUS saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

I KNOW not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise;
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And so beside the silent sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm can come from him to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where his islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond his love and care.

ETERNAL God, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us alternate mercies of the darkness and the day: there is no light but thine, without, within. As thou liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with thy morning upon our souls; quicken all our labor and our prayer; and, though all else declines, let the noontide of thy grace and peace remain. May we walk, while it is yet day, in the steps of him who, with fewest hours, finished thy divinest work. Amen.

AUGUST 30.

BECAUSE thou hast made the Lord thy refuge, and the Most High thy habitation ; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him : I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him : I will be with him in trouble ; I will deliver him, and honor him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

My God ! thy boundless love I praise ;
How bright on high its glories blaze !
How sweetly bloom below !
It streams from thine eternal throne ;
Through heaven its joys for ever run,
And o'er the earth they flow.

Then let the love that makes me blest,
With cheerful praise inspire my breast,
And ardent gratitude ;
And all my thoughts and passions tend
To thee, my Father and my Friend,
My soul's eternal good.

GOD of our lives, Maker of heaven and earth, who dost every morning command the light to shine out of darkness : shine into our hearts now, and give us the light of the knowledge of thy glory ; let an everlasting day dawn within us. As we have risen refreshed by repose, we would go forth with heart and hand ready for every good work ; we would return to our active duties with a fresh sense of the true value and purposes of life, and more deeply impressed than ever by the thought of the momentous consequences involved in all that we think and say and do. But without thee, all our strength is naught, and we shall labor in vain. Grant us thy blessing, O God. Be with us this day to guard and guide. Amen.

AUGUST 31.

ALL nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord ; and shall glorify thy name.

Teach me thy way, O Lord : I will walk in thy truth : unite my heart to fear thy name.

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart : and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law ; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Sing, O heavens ; and be joyful, O earth ; and break forth into singing, O mountains : for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

OH, make our house thy sanctuary !

Come in to us, a friendly guest,
And in our circle ever tarry.

Then shall we be for ever blest,
And thou, a house-mate, shall these walls
Transfigure into royal halls.

One tender bond all hearts embraces, —
A heavenly bond, thy hand hath wove ;
The rooms are turned to temple-spaces,
Illumined with God's peace and love.
Grace is the sunshine of our home,
And there God's angels go and come.

OUR Father in heaven, we live under thy care and blessing. Though we may be separated from each other, we cannot depart from thy presence. Watch over us, we pray thee, wherever we may be ; and keep us from all evil. Fill our hearts with thy love, and lead us in the safe and pleasant ways of innocence and wisdom. Keep us, O Father, beneath the shadow of thy wing. Make us strong to resist temptation, active in doing thy holy will, pure in all our thoughts, kind and loving to each other and to all men. So may we live that, when parted here on earth, we may be prepared to meet again in heaven. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 1.

HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror of the night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

BLESSED be thy name for ever,
Thou of life the Guard and Giver!
Thou who slumberest not nor sleepest,
Blest are they thou kindly keepest!
God of stillness and of motion,
Of the rainbow and the ocean,
Of the mountain, rock, and river,
Blessed be thy name for ever!

God of evening's peaceful ray;
God of every dawning day,
Rising from the distant sea,
Breathing of eternity:
Thine the flaming sphere of light,
Thine the darkness of the night;
God of life, that fade shall never,
Glory to thy name for ever!

O GOD, who ledest us through seasons of life to be partakers of thine eternity: the shadows of our evening hasten on. Quicken us betimes, and spare us that sad word, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Anew we dedicate ourselves to thee. We would ask nothing, reserve nothing, for ourselves, save only leave to go whither thou mayst guide, to live not far from thee, and die into thy nearer light. Content to accept the reproach of truth and the self-denials of pure integrity, we would take upon us the yoke of Christ, whom it behooved to suffer ere he entered into his glory. Even as he said to all, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." So, Father, help us to live in his spirit, and walk in his footsteps, even unto death. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 2.

AND I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

In sleep's serene oblivion laid,
I safely passed the silent night;
Again I see the breaking shade,
I drink again the morning light.

New-born, I bless the waking hour;
Once more, with awe, rejoice to be:
My conscious soul resumes her power,
And springs, my guardian God, to thee.

Oh! guide me through the various maze
My doubtful feet are doomed to tread;
And spread thy shield's protecting blaze,
When dangers press around my head.

A deeper shade shall soon impend;
A deeper sleep mine eyes oppress:
Yet then thy strength shall still defend,
Thy goodness still delight to bless.

That deeper shade shall break away;
That deeper sleep shall leave mine eyes:
Thy light shall give eternal day;
Thy love, the rapture of the skies.

O GOD, who art the fountain of all holiness: grant unto thy servants grace to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living; that we may with them come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for them that love thee and keep thy commandments. O Lord, who by thy Son hast opened to us a kingdom which is not of this world: direct, we beseech thee, our lot in this life according to our hopes, if they are not displeasing to thee; but, if they are, O our God, we willingly renounce them, and ask only to be made the means of advancing thy kingdom. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 3.

NO man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed ; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest , neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Take heed therefore how ye hear : for whosoever hath, to him shall be given ; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press.

And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee.

And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

Now with creation's morning song,
Let us, as children of the day,
With wakened heart and purpose strong,
The works of darkness cast away.
Oh ! may the morn so pure, so clear,
Its own sweet calm in us instil ;
A guileless mind, a heart sincere,
Simplicity of mind and will.

And ever, as the day glides by,
May we the busy senses rein ;
Keep guard upon the hand and eye,
Nor let the conscience suffer stain.
Grant us, O God ! in love to thee,
Clear eyes to measure things below ;
Faith, the invisible to see ;
And wisdom, thee in all to know.

ALmighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid : cleanse our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name. Assist us, O Lord, in our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may live to thy glory, and by thy mercy obtain everlasting life. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 4.

BUT I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other ; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.

Give to every man that asketh of thee ; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye ? for sinners also love those that love them.

And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye ? for sinners also do even the same.

IN the morning I will raise
To my God the voice of praise ;
With his kind protection blest,
Sweet and deep has been my rest.

IN the morning I will pray
For God's blessing on the day ;
What this day shall be my lot,
Light or darkness, know I not.

Should it be with clouds o'ercast,
Clouds of sorrow, gathering fast,
Thou, who givest light divine,
Shine within me, Lord, oh shine !

ALmighty God, who art light and with whom there is no darkness : to thee we thy children come in grateful trust. Mercifully hear our lowly prayer, and give us the wisdom that is from above. May our hearts be open as the day ; may they long for more quickening truth. Give us clear views of thy word, that truth that sanctifieth and maketh free. Amid diversities of belief may there be found the spirit of truth. O God, send forth thy truth and light till all shall know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 5.

THEN he called his twelve disciples together.

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere.

Now that the sun is beaming bright,
Implore we, bending low,
That he, the uncreated Light,
May guide us as we go.
No sinful word, nor deed of wrong,
Nor thoughts that idly rove,
But simple truth, be on our tongue,
And in our hearts be love.

And, while the hours in order flow,
Securely keep, O God,
Our hearts, beleaguered by the foe
That tempts our every road.
And grant that to thine honor, Lord,
Our daily toil may tend;
That we begin it at thy word,
And in thy favor end.

O GOD, may our souls be warm with life: save us from an inanimate and sluggish state. Teach us thy purity; how great thy abhorrence of evil, how irreconcilable thy hatred of it, and may we all partake of the same abhorrence of sin. Increase our sensibility to evil; may we shun every appearance of it, and repel the first temptation; and, in a world where example is so corrupt, we beseech thee to arm us with a holy fortitude. Inspire our sensibility to good; may we see more and more its loveliness and beauty. And may all the varied experience of life draw us nearer to thee. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 6.

THE Lord is gracious, and full of compassion ; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works.

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord ; and thy saints shall bless thee.

They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power ;

To make known to the sons of men thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of thy kingdom.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

How dear is the thought, that the angels of God
May bow their bright wings to the world they once trod ;
Will leave the sweet songs of the mansions above,
To breathe o'er our bosoms some message of love !

They come, on the wings of the morning they come,
Impatient to lead some poor wanderer home ;
Some sinner to save from his darkened abode,
And lay him to rest in the arms of his God.

They come when we wander, they come when we pray,
In mercy to guard us wherever we stray :
A glorious cloud, their bright witness is given ;
Encircling us here are these angels of heaven.

ETERNAL God, in whom the spirits of just men do rest in peace from their labors : we bless and praise thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear ; and especially for those most dear to us, of whom we have good hope that they are fallen asleep in Jesus. And we beseech thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples that even here we may be united to them in fellowship of spirit, and that finally we may be gathered together with them into the bosom of thy love. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 7.

WE have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

LEAVE God to order all thy ways,
And hope in him whate'er betide;
Thou'lt find him in the evil days
Thy all-sufficient strength and guide:
Who trusts in God's unchanging love,
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from his ways,
But do thine own part faithfully;
Trust his rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfill'd in thee:
God never yet forsook at need
The soul that trusted him indeed.

O GOD, our Father good and kind: though we forget thee, thou dost never forget us. Thou makest the sun to shine, and the rain to fall, and givest us all the blessings we enjoy. Thou hast given us the dear friends whom we love, and who love us; all the joys of this fair world we live in, and all the bright hopes of the better life. What shall we render unto thee for all thy benefits? May we bring to thee pure and grateful hearts. May we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before thee. May we love thee truly, and show thee our love by cheerful obedience,—by loving all around us, and helping all whom we have power to aid. So may we grow wiser and better every day. Bless us, we pray thee, and those who are dear to us, and all thy children everywhere. May all know and love thee, and serve and worship thee in spirit and in truth. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 8.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away ; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine ; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit ; for without me ye can do nothing.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit ; so shall ye be my disciples.

PLANTED in Christ, the living Vine,
This day, with one accord,
Ourselves, with humble faith and joy,
We yield to thee, O Lord !

Joined in one body may we be,
One inward life partake,
One be our heart, one heavenly hope
In every bosom wake.

In prayer, in effort, tears, and toils,
One wisdom be our guide :
Taught by one Spirit from above,
In thee may we abide.

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast shown the care thou takest of the people : cultivate, we beseech thee, every branch of this thy vine, that it may be more fruitful : let not the thorns of sin prevail against us ; but protect us by thy Spirit, that we may bring forth the fruits of holy living, to the glory of thy blessed name. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 9.

WHEN thou saidst, Seek ye my face, my heart said
unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not thy face far from me: thou hast been my
help: leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my
salvation.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path.
I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of
the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall
strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

APPROACH not the altar with gloom in thy soul,
Nor let thy feet falter from terror's control:
God loves not the sadness of fear and mistrust;
Oh, serve him with gladness, — the Loving and Just!

His bounty is tender, his being is love;
His smile fills with splendor the blue arch above:
Confiding, believing, oh! enter always
His courts with thanksgiving, his portals with praise!

Come not to his temple with pride in thy mien,
But lowly and simple, in courage serene;
Bring meekly before him the faith of a child,
Bow down and adore him with heart undefiled!

O GOD, if only our wills may remain right and firm
towards thee, do with us whatsoever it shall please
thee; for it cannot be any thing but good, whatsoever thou
shalt do with us. If it be thy will we should be in dark-
ness, be thou blessed; and if it be thy will we should be
in light, be thou blessed. If thou vouchsafe to comfort us,
be thou blessed; and if thou wilt have us afflicted, be thou
ever equally blessed. O Lord, we will cheerfully suffer
whatsoever thou shalt appoint. From thy hand we are
willing to receive good and evil, sweet and bitter, joy and
sorrow; and for all that befalleth us we will be thankful.
Keep us safe from all sin, and we shall neither fear death
nor hell, but utterly trust in thee as humble disciples of
Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 10.

DOTH not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth
her voice?

Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

How happy is he born or taught
Who serveth not another's will;
Whose armor is his honest thought,
And simple truth his highest skill;
Whose passions not his masters are;
Whose soul is still prepared for death;
Not tied unto the world with care
Of public fame or private breath;

Who God doth late and early pray
More of his grace than goods to lend,
And walks with man, from day to day,
As with a brother and a friend!
This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall;
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

O THOU Fountain of all goodness, accept the prayers which we this day fervently offer up at the footstool of thy throne. May we be always as ready to acknowledge and use thy gracious gifts as we are to ask them in the time of our need. Cast out from us all evil, and work in us a fulness of holiness, of wisdom, and spiritual understanding; that, increasing in the knowledge of thee, we may be fruitful in every good work, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 11.

WITH my soul have I desired thee in the night ; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early : for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us : for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself : it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

O Lord, correct me, but with judgment ; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him ; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us, by his servants, the prophets.

My voice shalt thou hear this morning,
For the shades have passed away,
And out from the dark like a joyous lark
My heart soars up with the day ;
And its burden all is blessing,
And its accents all are song ;
For thou hast refreshed its slumbers,
And thy strength hath made it strong.

My voice shalt thou hear this morning,
For the day is all unknown ;
And I am afraid without thine aid
To travel its hours alone.
Give me thy light to lead me,
Give me thy hand to guide,
Give me thy living presence,
To journey side by side.

UNDER thy kind providence, O God, we are permitted once more to behold the light of day ; we would unite in prayer that our sins may be forgiven, and that we may find acceptance with thee. In many things we have offended, and have come short of the glory of God. We therefore humble ourselves before thee, and ask thy blessing. May a right spirit be renewed within us ; and day by day may we become more worthy to be called thy children. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 12.

THE glory of the Lord shall rejoice for ever ; the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

Thou waterest the hills from thy chambers : the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

Thou causest the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man : that thou mayest bring forth food out of the earth.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live : I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

PRAISE to God, immortal praise,
For the love that crowns our days !
Bounteous Source of every joy,
Let thy praise our tongues employ !
All the blessings of the fields,
All the stores the garden yields,
Flocks that whiten all the plain,
Yellow sheaves of ripened grain ;

All that spring with bounteous hand
Scatters o'er the smiling land,
All the plenty summer pours,
Autumn's rich, o'erflowing stores, —
These to thee, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow ;
And for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.

ALMIGHTY and eternal Lord God, who art infinite in power and wisdom and goodness : with hearts deeply sensible of thy tender care and concern for us, we most humbly beseech thee to accept our tribute of thanks and praise for the return of that joyous season in which thou makest our fields to yield an abundant increase. On thy fatherly protection and kindness we will steadfastly rely for the supply of our wants ; for thou carest for us. But, O heavenly Father, while we rejoice in thy outward bounty, do thou keep us ever mindful that man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth ; and grant that we may not cease to labor more earnestly for those everlasting blessings which thou hast vouchsafed to us in thy beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 13.

ALTHOUGH the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

SHOULD the rising whirlwinds tear
From its stem the ripening ear;
Should the fig-tree's blasted shoot
Drop her green, untimely fruit;

Should the vine put forth no more,
Nor the olive yield her store;
Though the sickening flocks should fall,
And the herds desert the stall;

Should thy altered hand restrain
The early and the latter rain,
Blast each opening bud of joy,
And the rising year destroy:

Yet to thee my soul should raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise;
And, when every blessing's flown,
Love thee for thyself alone.

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will as revealed to us by thy Son Jesus Christ. O thou who hast laid the foundations of the world: help us so to build upon the eternal rock that in the time of trial we shall not fail; help us to serve thee in the shadows and darkness of the world of sense, that we may be meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, where we shall ever praise the glorious riches of thy grace. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 14.

BUT the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.

It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you: but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

OUR blest Redeemer, ere he breathed
His tender, last farewell,
A Guide, a comforter, bequeathed,
With us to dwell.

He came sweet influence to impart,
A gracious, willing guest,
While he can find one humble heart
Wherein to rest.

And his that gentle voice we hear,
Soft as the breath of even,
That checks each fault, that calms each fear,
And speaks of heaven.

And every virtue we possess,
And every victory won,
And every thought of holiness,
Are his alone.

Spirit of purity and grace,
Our weakness pitying see ;
Oh, make our hearts thy dwelling-place,
And worthier thee !

GRANT, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, that we who celebrate the gift of thy Holy Spirit may, by thy heavenly inspiration, earnestly thirst after the fountain of life, which thou hast graciously opened to us in thy Son Jesus Christ. May the grace of thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, enlighten our hearts, and abundantly refresh them with the sweetness of perfect charity, that we may be well-pleasing in thy sight, as true disciples of thy Son. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 15.

AND I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you ; seek, and ye shall find ; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth ; and he that seeketh findeth ; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone ? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent ?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children ; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him ?

How do the rivulets find their way ?
How do the flowers know the day,
And open their cups to catch the ray ?
I see the germ to the sunlight reach,
And the nestlings know the old bird's speech ;
I do not see who is there to teach.

I see the hare from the danger hide,
And the stars through the pathless spaces ride ;
I do not see that they have a guide.
He is eyes for all who is eyes for the mole ;
All motion goes to the rightful goal ;
O God, I can trust for the human soul.

MOST merciful God, whose mercy is as high as the heavens, and endureth for ever : thou hast opened thy hand to fill us with blessings and the sweet effects of thy loving-kindness. Thou art pitiful as a father, tender as a mother : we pray thee to fill our souls with a deep sense of thy unspeakable goodness, that our thankfulness may be as great as our need of mercy. Whatever we possess, outwardly or inwardly, is thy gift. Let thy fatherly loving-kindness still preserve and bless us ; as thou hast holden us up ever since we were born, so let thy mercy go along with us all our days ; and grant that after we have, by thy aid, fought the good fight of faith, and finished our earthly course, we may lie down in righteousness, and have a joyful resurrection to the society of saints and angels, and the full fruition of heavenly blessedness in the presence of thy glorified Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 16.

AND he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there ; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah ?

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord ; but the Lord was not in the wind : and after the wind an earthquake ; but the Lord was not in the earthquake :

And after the earthquake a fire ; but the Lord was not in the fire : and after the fire a still small voice.

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave.

And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah ?

OPEN, Lord, my inward ear,
And bid my heart rejoice !
Bid my quiet spirit hear
Thy comfortable voice ;
Never in the whirlwind found,
Or where earthquakes rock the place ;
Still and silent is the sound,
The whisper, of thy grace !

From the world of sin and noise
And hurry, I withdraw ;
For the small and inward voice
I wait with humble awe ;
Silent am I now and still,
Dare not in thy presence move :
To my waiting soul reveal
The secret of thy love !

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee : mercifully accept our prayers ; and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed ; after the example of Jesus Christ, thy well-beloved Son. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 17.

AND when he came to himself, he said, I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again: he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Oh, richly, Father, have I been
 Blest evermore by thee!
 And morning, noon, and night thou hast
 Preserved me tenderly.
 And yet the love which thou shouldst claim
 To idols I have given;
 Too oft have bound to earth the hopes
 That know no home but heaven.

Unworthy to be called thy son,
 I come with shame to thee,
 Father! — oh, more than father thou
 Hast always been to me!
 Help me to break the heavy chains
 The world has round me thrown,
 And know the glorious liberty
 Of an obedient son.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who didst send thy beloved Son into the world to seek and to save that which was lost: we beseech thee to look favorably upon thy servants, and to forgive all our offences. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. Make us more faithful to our own souls, to each other, and to thee, through the guidance of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 18.

IN the morning ye shall be filled with bread: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.

And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is Manna! And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat. And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating.

DAY by day the manna fell:
Oh, to learn this lesson well!
Still by constant mercy fed,
Give us, Lord, our daily bread.
"Day by day," the promise reads;
Daily strength for daily needs;
Cast foreboding fears away;
Take the manna of to-day.

Lord, our times are in thy hand;
All our sanguine hopes have planned
To thy wisdom we resign,
And would mould our wills to thine.
Thou our daily task shalt give;
Day by day to thee we live;
So shall added years fulfil
Not our own, our Father's will.

O THOU at whose word the sun ariseth, and man goeth forth to his labor until the evening, we ask thy blessing. Without thee we can do nothing: with thee we can have nothing to fear. Thou art all in all; for every step that we take, for every breath that we draw, strength cometh from thee; and thy favor is life, and thy loving kindness is better than life. Make us deeply sensible this day of our dependence on thee; and for every duty may we be strengthened by the thought of thy presence. Lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. Wherever we go, however we may be employed, in the busiest moments, and amidst the noise and hurry of the world, let thy voice be heard, above the din of earth, in our hearts, and thy peace cause all around and within to shine as with the serene and unfading brightness of heaven. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 19.

AND if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

KEEP my feet from secret snares,
Keep mine eyes, O God, from tears!
Every step thy love attend,
And my soul from death defend!

Show me, if I tempted be,
How to find all strength in thee,
And a perfect triumph win
Over every bosom sin.

Then, when fall the shades of night,
All within shall still be light;
Thou wilt peace around diffuse,
Gently as the evening dews.

THOU great Author of our being, who knowest all our wants, and who alone art able to supply them; who perceivest all the dangers and evils to which we are exposed, and who alone canst defend us: whither shall we go but unto thee? We pray thee to compassionate our weakness, to guard us in peril, to direct us in doubt, and to save us from falling into sin. In every exposure may thy shield be over us. From the evil that is around and within us, graciously deliver us. Make the path of duty plain before us, and keep us in it even unto the end. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 20.

THE Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith.

Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice; for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field; for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig-tree and the vine do yield their strength.

And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you.

SOMETIMES a light surprises
The Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord who rises,
With healing in his wings:
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining
To cheer it after rain.

Though vine nor fig-tree neither
Their wonted fruit shall bear;
Though all the field should wither,
Nor flocks nor herds be there;
Yet, God the same abiding,
His praise shall tune my voice;
For, while in him confiding,
I cannot but rejoice.

GOD of all grace, and Father of all consolation, who art good and doest good continually, showing thy loving-kindness and tender mercy even to the evil and unthankful: how broad and deep and firm is the foundation on which rest our hope and trust and joy! Towards thee our hearts glow with love and thankfulness. How can we express thy tender care or our obligations? But thou needest not our poor words of adoration. Thou requirest the worship of the heart and the active, constant worship of the life. This we desire to offer. O Lord, help us to serve thee aright, and may we find true communion with thy Spirit now and evermore. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 21.

HEREIN is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit: so shall ye be my disciples.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

SOURCE of light and life divine !
Thou didst cause the light to shine ;
Thou didst bring thy sunbeams forth
O'er thy new-created earth.
Shade of night and morning ray
Took from thee the name of day :
Now again the shades are nigh,
Listen to thy children's cry !

May we ne'er, by guilt depressed,
Lose the way to endless rest ;
May no thoughts, corrupt and vain,
Draw our souls to earth again.
Rather help them still to rise
Where our dearest treasure lies ;
Help us in our daily strife,
Make us struggle into life !

O LORD our God, who by thy Son hast taught us that love is the fulfilling of the law and of the gospel: fill us, we beseech thee, with the spirit of universal charity, that we may love thee above all, and our neighbor as ourselves. O merciful God, who art a Father to all thy people: grant that thy holy gospel may be proclaimed in the uttermost parts of the earth, gladdening the hearts of all who hear it; and, O blessed Lord, so fetch thy wanderers home to thy flock, that there may be one fold under one shepherd. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 22.

AND Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.

And they called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered.

And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

And Elijah took twelve stones, . . . and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord.

For ever with the Lord!
So, Father, let it be;
Life from the dead is in that word,
'Tis immortality.

Here in the body pent,
Absent from thee I roam;
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent
A day's march nearer home.

For ever with the Lord!
Father, if 'tis thy will,
The promise of that blessed word
Even here to me fulfil.

O LORD God, whose name alone is excellent, and whose praise is above heaven and earth: we adore and bless thy mercy for creating us after thine own image. May all thy creatures minister to thy praises in their several degrees. Give us grace, we beseech thee, that the laws of sanctity, of faith, and obedience, which thou hast given to us, may never be broken; that we, serving thee not only in the order of thy creatures, but in the capacity of thy children, may glorify thy holy name amongst the angels and the innumerable host of saints in thy kingdom. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 23.

AND it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces : and they said, The Lord, he is the God : The Lord, he is the God.

My Father's house on high !
Home of my soul, how near
At times to faith's foreseeing eye
Thy golden gates appear !

And then I feel that he,
Remembered or forgot,
The Lord, is never far from me,
Though I perceive him not.

Be thou at my right hand,
Then can I never fail ;
Uphold thou me, and I shall stand ;
Help, and I must prevail.

MOST gracious God, who strengthenest the weak and renewest the weary, and givest to thy faithful servants a peace which the world can neither give nor take away : may this day be entirely free from sin ; and let thy grace abound in our hearts. Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning : grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 24.

COME unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me ; for I am meek
and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

COME unto me, when shadows darkly gather,
When the sad heart is weary and distrest,
Seeking for comfort from your Heavenly Father,
Come unto me, and I will give you rest !

Ye who have mourned when the spring-flowers were taken,
When the ripe fruit fell richly to the ground,
When the loved slept, in brighter homes to waken,
Where their pale brows with spirit-wreaths are crowned :

Large are the mansions in thy Father's dwelling,
Glad are the homes that sorrows never dim ;
Sweet are the harps in holy music swelling,
Soft are the tones which raise the heavenly hymn ;

There, like an Eden blossoming in gladness,
Bloom the fair flowers the earth too rudely pressed ;
Come unto me, all ye who droop in sadness,
Come unto me, and I will give you rest.

ETERNAL rest give to us also, O Lord, when our souls
shall cast off this earthly body, and enter thy wondrous
presence. O grant that we may often have this
moment in our thoughts. Thou hast not created us for this
world alone, where we pass, as it were, only a few moments
of our existence. Lift up our thoughts, we beseech thee,
to the world of our lasting home : teach us to consider this
life as the beginning of life eternal ; and, O holy and merciful
Father, who workest in us both to will and to do, help
us by thy grace to cast out all evil dispositions, to be unwearied
in well-doing, and to cherish every heavenly affection ; that we
may begin now to live as those who with humble but joyous hope
look forward to dwelling for ever with thee, and Jesus Christ,
and the spirits of the just made perfect. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 25.

COMFORT the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man ; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks : for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things ; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly ; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is the hour of prayer :
Draw near and bend the knee,
And fill the calm and holy air
With voice of melody !
For smiles from loving eyes
Have been around our way,
And lips on which a blessing lies
Have bidden us to pray.

Oh ! blessed is the hour
That lifts our hearts on high !
Like sunlight when the tempests lower,
Prayer to the soul is nigh.
Though dark may be our lot,
Our eyes be dim with care,
These saddening thoughts shall trouble not
This holy hour of prayer.

O LORD, our heavenly Father : we humbly bow before thy throne ; we thank thee that we are the children of thy love. Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves. Thou watchest over us by night ; thou keepest all our steps by day. We can never go from thy presence, nor flee from thy Spirit. Thou art holy, just, and wise ; thy commandments are good. Thy tender mercies are over all thy works. O God, bless us, thy lowly children. Teach us thy holy will. Forgive the sins of which we have been guilty. And, because we are weak in ourselves, may we ever find our strength in God. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 26.

HEAR my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications :
in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

I stretch forth my hands unto thee : my soul thirsteth
after thee, as a thirsty land.

Hear me speedily, O Lord : my spirit faileth : hide not
thy face from me.

Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning ;
for in thee do I trust : cause me to know the way wherein
I should walk ; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Teach me to do thy will ; for thou art my God : thy
spirit is good ; lead me into the land of uprightness.

THE Lord my pasture shall prepare,
And feed me with a shepherd's care ;
His presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye ;
My noonday walks he shall attend,
And all my midnight hours defend.

Though in the paths of death I tread,
With gloomy horrors overspread,
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,
For thou, O Lord ! art with me still :
Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.

O THOU who dwellest in the heavens, but whom the
heaven of heavens cannot contain, unto thee do we
lift up our souls. Encircled by thy protecting arms, may
we fear no evil ; encompassed by thy pure presence, may
we commit no sin. When discouraged by difficulty, may we
look up to thee, from whom cometh our help ; when dis-
tressed by calamity, may we take refuge in thy mercy.
Through life, may we always act as seeing him who is
invisible. In death, may we find our consolation and
support in Him who, when flesh and heart fail, will be the
strength of our souls and our portion for ever. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 27.

FOR our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us : for our transgressions are with us ; and as for our iniquities we know them ;

In transgressing against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

But now, O Lord, thou art our Father, we are the clay, and thou our potter ; and we are all the work of thy hand.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever : behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.

I will mention the loving-kindness of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his loving-kindnesses.

I do not ask, O Lord, that life may be
A pleasant road :

I do not ask that thou wouldst take from me
Aught of its load :

I do not ask, O Lord, that thou shouldst shed
Full radiance here ;

Give but a ray of peace, that I may tread
Without a fear !

I do not ask my cross to understand,
My way to see ;
Better in darkness just to feel thy hand,
And follow thee.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, forgive our slowness of heart to believe thy gospel : forgive the rebellion of our hearts against thy law ; help us, by that divine grace which Jesus promised, to keep thy commandments, to walk worthy of the light of thy truth, and to find, in our fellowship with Jesus thy Son, the power to overcome all evil ; and thus, through our redemption and sanctification, manifest the riches of thy mercy as shown in Christ, through whom to thee be all honor evermore. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 28.

AND when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it ; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul ?

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his father with the holy angels.

ON earth we gain by losing,
And win by failure here ;
We scorn the world's poor tinsel,
The golden crown to wear.

'Tis by defeat we conquer,
Grow rich by growing poor ;
And from our largest givings
We draw our fullest store.

Then let the blossoms perish,
And let the fragrance go ;
All the surer and the larger
Is the harvest we shall know.

All the sweeter and the louder
Our song of harvest-home,
When earth's ripe autumn smileth,
And the reaping-day has come.

LORD, increase my faith in thee and thy love and truth, and in things holy, pure, and blessed, against all distracting temptations, and all thoughts and things that lead astray. Yea, Lord, increase my faith, after thy will and by thy wisdom, in thy life-giving presence, in thy eternal hope, in righteousness, peace, and hope of unfading immortality. Lord, thou alone canst give strength and life. Take hold of us with thy right hand, and bear us up and lead us on to eternity. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 29.

HEAVEN and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh.

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

ONLY waiting, till the shadows
Are a little longer grown;
Only waiting, till the glimmer
Of the day's last beam is flown;
Till the light of earth is faded
From the heart once full of day;
Till the stars of heaven are breaking
Through the twilight soft and gray.

Only waiting till the reapers
Have the last sheaf gathered home;
For the summer-time is faded,
And the autumn winds have come.
Quickly, reapers, — gather quickly
These last ripe hours of my heart;
For the bloom of life is withered,
And I hasten to depart.

O GOD, to the direction of thy wise and renewing providence we trustfully commit ourselves. Safe under thy protection and happy in thy favor, we would cheerfully follow whither thou art pleased to lead us. We desire only that portion of the good things of this life which thou seest to be fit for us, and would shrink from no trial which our souls need. Be with us this coming day and night, and in all coming time. In health and sickness, in life and death, may we lift up our souls to thee, and make thy love our confidence and joy; and may we so pass through the changing scenes of this present world that we may be prepared for the higher service and joy of the world to come. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 30.

AND he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?

For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.

And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall more be given.

For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.

Oh, help us, Lord! each hour of need
Thy heavenly succor give;
Help us in thought, in word, in deed,
Each hour on earth we live.
Oh, help us, when our spirits bleed,
With doubt and anguish sore;
And when our hearts are cold and dead,
Oh, help us, Lord, the more.

Oh, help us, through the prayer of faith,
More firmly to believe;
For still the more the servant hath,
The more shall he receive.
Oh, help us, Father! from on high;
We know no help but thee;
Oh, help us so to live and die,
As thine in heaven to be!

THOU who art the great Creator, when we worship before thy throne, we thank thee that we may call thee Father. Thou doest all things well. Thou lovest all whom thou hast created. Thy sun shines on the just and the unjust. Thy rains fall on the thankful and the unthankful. We pray that, like thee, heavenly Father, we may love all the members of thy family. Give us hearts to pity the suffering, to relieve the poor, to care for the sick, to befriend the friendless, to do good to all as we have opportunity. We thank thee for thy dear Son who came to seek and save the lost. May his spirit rule in our hearts, and to thee be the glory evermore. Amen.

OCTOBER 1.

BEHOLD, there went out a sower to sow :

And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth ; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth :

But when the sun was up, it was scorched ; and because it had no root, it withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased, and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundred.

O GOD ! who knowest how frail we are,
How soon the thought of good departs :
We pray that thou wouldst feed the fount
Of holy yearning in our hearts.

Let not the choking cares of earth
The precious springs of life o'ergrow ;
But, ever guarded by thy love,
Still purer may their waters flow.

To thee, with sweeter hope and trust,
Be every day our spirits given ;
And may we, while we walk on earth,
Walk more as citizens of heaven.

MOST merciful God, who art righteous in all thy ways and holy in all thy works, and knowest our secret thoughts : help us, thy children, to obey thy voice and to serve thee with all our souls. That we may not fall into sin, may be watchful night and day. Make us more deeply grieved when we offend thee, more glad to give thee our whole hearts. May we shun those who would lead us astray. Make our hearts clean in thy sight. Help us to confess our faults, and to lay aside our easily besetting sins. May we run with patience the race that is set before us. O thou Lover of souls, grant thy mighty help to all thy children, that we may do thy blessed will, and reach the house of many mansions. Amen.

OCTOBER 2.

AND Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea ; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass ; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any ; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Holy Spirit, Truth divine,
Dawn upon this soul of mine ;
Word of God, and Inward Light,
Wake my spirit, clear my sight !

Holy Spirit, Love divine,
Glow within this heart of mine ;
Kindle every high desire ;
Perish self in thy pure fire !

Holy Spirit, Power divine,
Fill and nerve this will of mine :
By thee may I strongly live,
Bravely bear and nobly strive !

OUR Father in heaven, we thank thee for the gift of life, freshly renewed to us from day to day. Help us to feel that we are not our own, but thine. Grant that we walk this day steadfastly in the way of thy commandments. Create within us an obedient and loving heart. Inspire us with the spirit that shall watch for the signs of thy good pleasure, and run to do thy holy bidding. Confessing with sorrow our past disobedience, may our will henceforth be conformed to thine. Speak, Lord, and let thy servants hear ; and give us strength faithfully to follow thy teaching evermore. Amen.

OCTOBER 3.

FOR with thee is the fountain of life : in thy light shall we see light.

O send out thy light and thy truth ; let them lead me : let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles

In him was life : and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

WALK in the light ! so shalt thou know
That fellowship of love
His spirit only can bestow,
Who reigns in light above.

Walk in the light ! and thou shalt find
Thy heart made truly his,
Who dwells in cloudless light enshrined,
In whom no darkness is.

Walk in the light ! and thou shalt own
Thy darkness passed away :
Because that light hath on thee shone
In which is perfect day.

Walk in the light ! and thine shall be
A path, though thorny, bright ;
For God, by grace, shall dwell in thee,
And God himself is light.

FATHER, we thank thee for our nature made in thine image, and for the revelations of truth and inspirations of good which thou makest therein ; for the grand knowledge of thyself, full of infinite perfection, doing good to all, and making all things work together for good. We remember before thee our daily lives. Gifted with a nature capable of divine life, and surrounded with privilege so abundant, we mourn that we should ever cherish unholy sentiments or perform unrighteous deeds, that stain our purity. We take to ourselves shame and confusion of face ; and pray that we may learn to cast all evil behind us, and live nobler and more natural lives of inward piety and outward goodness toward thee and toward all. Amen.

OCTOBER 4.

FINALLY, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.

THE Christian warrior, see him stand
In the whole armor of his God ;
The spirit's sword is in his hand,
His feet are with the gospel shod,

In panoply of truth complete,
Salvation's helmet on his head,
With righteousness, a breastplate meet,
And faith's broad shield before him spread, —

With this omnipotence he moves ;
From this the alien armies flee ;
Till more than conqueror he proves,
Through Christ, who gives him victory.

Thus strong in his Redeemer's strength,
Sin, death, and hell he tramples down,
Fights the good fight, and wins at length,
Through mercy, an immortal crown.

O GOD, who by thy Holy Spirit dost comfort, direct and sanctify the hearts of thy faithful servants: spare us, good Lord. From all blindness of heart ; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy ; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness ; from fleshly lusts that war against the soul ; from the deceits of the world ; from the counsel of the ungodly, and from all sin, good Lord, deliver us. In all time of our tribulation ; in all time of our wealth ; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, O Lord, be thou our hope and our stay for ever. Amen.

OCTOBER 5.

WHEREFORE take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness ; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace : above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God : praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

AWAKE, my soul ! lift up thine eyes ;
See where thy foes against thee rise ;
In long array, a numerous host, —
Awake, my soul, or thou art lost.

Thou tread'st upon enchanted ground !
Perils and snares beset thee round ;
Beware of all, guard every part,
But most the traitor in thy heart.

Come then, my soul, now learn to wield
The weight of thine immortal shield ;
Put on the armor from above,
Of heavenly truth and heavenly love.

The terror and the charm repel,
And powers of earth, and powers of hell ;
The Man of Calvary triumphed here, —
Why should his faithful followers fear ?

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who by thy Son callest the wanderers home : have mercy upon us. We beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God, that it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived ; that it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand, and to comfort and help the weak-hearted, and to raise up them that fall, and finally to give us the victory over temptation, and grant us thy peace evermore. Amen.

OCTOBER 6.

ALL the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know ; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

FOUNTAIN of light and living breath,
Whose mercies never fail nor fade !
Fill me with life that hath no death,
Fill me with light that hath no shade ;
Appoint the remnant of my days,
To see thy power, and sing thy praise.

Lord God of gods, before whose throne
Stand storms and fire ! oh, what shall we
Return to heaven that is our own,
When all the world belongs to thee ?
We have no offering to impart
But praises, and a wounded heart.

BLESSED Lord, we thank thee for signs of thy Providence and inspiration in many lands ; and we desire of thee the gifts of patience, soberness, and sincerity, so to read the letter of things written in old time that thy Holy Spirit may ever live in us, and that we may so remember the story of things temporal as ever to worship the unseen God, who is eternal. Grant us the grace of humility to cherish wisdom, and to obey righteousness, and to discern the difference between things holy and unhallowed. Teach us that all souls are precious in thy sight ; and that prayer is holier than incense, and obedience better than oblation. Even so, Lord dwell among us by thy lively Spirit, that we may become holy in thy sight, and that we may become thy people, and thou our God for evermore. Amen.

OCTOBER 7.

BE not faithless, but believing.

Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed ;
blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, that thou
by them mightest war a good warfare ; holding faith and a
good conscience : which some having put away, concern-
ing faith have made shipwreck.

I ASK not wealth, but power to take
And use the things I have aright ;
Not years, but wisdom that shall make
My life a profit and delight.

I ask not that for me the plan
Of good and ill be set aside ;
But that the common lot of man
Be nobly borne and glorified.

I know I may not always keep
My steps in places green and sweet,
Nor find the pathway of the deep
A path of safety to my feet ;

But pray that when the tempest's breath
Shall fiercely sweep my way about,
I make not shipwreck of my faith
In the unfathomed sea of doubt.

GIVER of all good, and Fountain of all joy : what rich
feasts does thy fatherly love offer anew with each
returning morning ! How hast thou filled the earth with
bounty and adorned it with beauty ! We see thy mercy
freshly revealed in the light and privilege of this new day.
Again we hear thy gracious invitation to come up higher and
enjoy the felicity of heavenly things. May we hear and
heed the call of thy Spirit to leave the low places of sense
and sin, and become coworkers with God. May we know
the glory of true life, and live not for the things that perish,
but for the joys that are eternal. Remembering our great
vocation, may we live worthily as children of the Most
High and heirs of immortality. Amen.

OCTOBER 8.

THE light of the body is the eye : therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light ; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed, therefore, that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

SPIRIT of power and truth and love !
Who sitt'st enthroned in light above,
Descend, and bear us on thy wings
Far from these low and fleeting things.

'Tis thine the wounded soul to heal ;
'Tis thine to make the hardened feel ;
Thine to give light to blinded eyes,
And bid the earth-bound spirit rise.

Come, Holy Spirit, like the fire,
With burning zeal our souls inspire ;
Come, like the south wind, breathing balm ;
Our joys refresh, our passions calm ;

Come like the sun's enlightening beam ;
Come like the cooling, cleansing stream ;
With all thy graces present be :
Spirit of God, we wait for thee.

O GOD, whose blessed light fills the world : unseal our eyes, and come thou into our minds, that we may behold thy glory. We thank thee for the inspiration that gives understanding, and that, guided by thee, we may know the truth, and in it find freedom and strength. We bewail the errors and ignorance that give such unworthy conceptions of thee and thy dealings with the sons of men. How poorly have we learned to know thee as our Father and best Friend ! Oh, may the pure light of the gospel irradiate all souls with its gladdening beams ! Grant us the blessed light ; may we not hide it under a bushel. May we be as a city set on a hill. May we remember our responsibility ; the account we must give for the use of our talents. Lord, stir us up to ever-increasing activity in the service of thy truth in the world. Amen.

OCTOBER 9.

JESUS saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world ; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world ; but that the world through him might be saved

O THOU, great friend to all the sons of men,
Who once appeared in humblest guise below,
Sin to rebuke, to break the captive's chain,
And call thy brethren forth from want and woe ;

We look to thee ! thy truth is still the Light
Which guides the nations, groping on their way,
Stumbling and falling in disastrous night,
Yet hoping ever for the perfect day.

Yes ! thou art still the Life ; thou art the way
The holiest know, — light, life, and way of heaven !
And they who dearest hope, and deepest pray,
Toil by the light, life, way, which thou hast given.

O GOD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of darkness, and make us the sons of God and heirs of eternal life : grant us, we beseech thee, that having this hope we may purify ourselves even as he is pure ; that, when we are called away from this world, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom. O God our Father, Author of every good and perfect gift, who delightest above all to impart of thine own ever-blessed Spirit : oh ! may the devout consideration of all thy benefits increase the grateful fervor of our minds, and make us always so ready and well-disposed to obey the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that in all our trials and difficulties here below thy unerring wisdom may be our guide, and the blessed communications of thy grace our never-ceasing consolation and joy. Amen.

OCTOBER 10.

AND God saw every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places: yea, I have a goodly heritage.

WHATE'ER of good the past hath had
Remains to make our own time glad, —
Our common daily life divine,
And every land a Palestine.

O Friend, we need not rock nor sand,
Nor storied realm of morning land;
We lack but open eye and ear
To find the Orient's marvels here.

Through clouds of doubt and creeds of fear
A light is breaking calm and clear.
The song of love, now low and far,
Ere long shall swell from star to star!

Henceforth my heart shall sigh no more
For olden time and holier shore;
God's love and blessing then and there
Are now and here and everywhere.

OUR Father and best Friend, on earth as in heaven: may we know that thy loving-kindness so richly shown in the olden time is with thy children still. Thou art more ready to grant thy favor than we are to ask or even to receive it. Thy love pursues us even in our wandering. When we go down to the dark places of sin, we find thee punishing that thou mayest redeem. When our best aspirations rise to heaven, there we find thee graciously blessing us beyond all that eye hath seen or heart conceived. Borne up by thy loving-kindness, may we know the blessedness of true life. And may it be the supreme desire of our souls to glorify God and enjoy him for ever. Amen.

OCTOBER 11.

AND they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went ; and he made as though he would have gone further.

But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us : for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?

If a man love me he will keep my word ; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

I NEED thy presence every passing hour. —
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me !

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless ;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is Death's sting? where, Grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me !

O GOD, who by thy dear Son hast opened unto us a new and living way into thy holy presence : grant to us, we beseech thee, the assurance of thy mercy, and sanctify us by thy heavenly grace ; that we, approaching thee with a pure heart and undefiled conscience, may offer unto thee the sacrifice of righteousness, and celebrate thy blessed name in the faith and spirit of thy Son Jesus Christ. O God, our heavenly Father, by whose providence both the day and the night are governed : vouchsafe, we beseech thee, this day to preserve us by thy goodness, and this night to overshadow us by the blessed wing of thy most bountiful protection ; that we, being armed with thy defence, may be preserved from all adversities that may hurt the body, and from all wicked thoughts that may assault and defile the soul. Amen.

OCTOBER 12.

I WILL walk before the Lord in the land of the living.
What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him ! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him !

Man is like a vapor : his days are as a shadow that passeth away.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

But our God is in the heavens ; he hath done whatsoever he pleased.

ALL as God wills, who wisely heeds,
To give or to withhold,
And knoweth more of all my needs
Than all my prayers have told.
Enough that blessings undeserved
Have marked my erring track ;
That wheresoe'er my feet have swerved,
Thy chastening drove me back ;

That more and more a providence
Of love is understood,
Making the springs of time and sense
Bright with eternal good ;
That death seems but a covered way
Which opens into light,
Wherein no blinded child can stray
Beyond the Father's sight.

FATHER, before thee we would remember our daily duties and trials. May we have such earnest confidence and obedience toward thee that we shall reverence and keep thy commands, and serve thee every day, making our life one great act of holiness unto thee. May our actions be so ordered by the golden rule that by our toil mankind shall be blessed. When temptations beset us, and passion within is allied with opportunity wherein we have so often gone astray, may the spirit of religion be so strong in our souls that it shall enable us to conquer evil and prove ourselves stronger from every trial. Help us, O Father, in life's varied experience to prepare for thy nearer presence and higher service. Amen.

OCTOBER 13.

O MY people, come, and let us walk in the light of the Lord ;

Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

And the work of righteousness shall be peace ; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever.

And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places.

They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

BEGIN the day with God !
He is thy sun and day ;
His is the radiance of thy dawn,
To him address thy lay.

Cast every weight aside !
Do battle with each sin ;
Fight with the faithless world without,
The faithless heart within.

Thy first transaction be
With God himself above ;
So shall thy business prosper well,
And all the day be love.

O THOU eternal One in whom is our life : thou hast appointed our work, and to thee we would come for strength to perform it. Thine infinite purity puts to shame in us whatever is mean and low. Turn us from vanity, and fill us with thine own spirit of truth and love. More and more fill us with pity for others' woes ; with the charity of them that remember their own unworthiness ; with the alacrity of mortals who may not boast of the morrow ; and the glad hope of children of eternity. Lead us in the straight paths of simplicity and holiness ; and may neither the praise nor blame of men betray us into any false step. And when our last hour comes, may thy gracious angels bear us from these scenes of time. May we rest in the peace and joy of eternity. And unto thee, Lord of the living and the dying, be thanks and praise for ever. Amen.

AND they heard a great voice from heaven, saying unto them, Come up hither.

And there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come : because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Look up, look up, my soul, still higher ;
On to the heavenly goal aspire,
On God's love ever leaning :
Burst this dull earth's control, and wing
Thy way where no clouds roll, and sing
Thy deep heart's inner meaning.

A little longer wait ; be brave
To bear what men call fate ; the grave
Stands open as heaven's portal :
Narrow indeed that gate, and so
The way it shows is straight, — but lo !
It brings thee joy immortal.

THOU who alone art from everlasting, without beginning of days or end of years : amid the changes of mortality we rejoice that we can look up to thee, who endurest for ever. Heaven and earth shall pass away ; but thou remainest, and wilt never fail those who put their trust in thee, nor hide thy face from those who love thee. We render thee humble and hearty thanks for the mercy with which our lives are sustained and blessed. Thou alone preservest us ; in thy hands are our life and breath, and thine are all our ways. Forgive us for duties neglected or sins committed. Quicken our consciences ; sanctify our hearts. Make us more pure, humble, and devout ; teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom ; and may we so serve thee as to be prepared for the joy immortal. Amen.

OCTOBER 15.

O SING unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the voice of a psalm; make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

THE Lord is king! who then shall dare
Resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees,
Or doubt his royal promises?

Come, make your wants, your burdens, known,
He will accept them at the throne;
And angel bands are waiting there
His messages of love to bear.

Oh! when his wisdom can mistake,
His might decay, his love forsake,
Then may his children cease to sing
The Lord omnipotent is king.

MOST gracious Father, pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our many and grievous transgressions. Take from us all impurity of thought or desire; all envy, pride, and hypocrisy; all falsehood and deceit; all covetousness, vain-glory, and indolence; all malice and anger; every thing that is contrary to thy will, O most holy Lord. Lord, make clean our hearts within us. Save us, O Lord God, from ingratitude towards thee, from an evil use of thy fatherly gifts, from mistrust in thy divine providence, from impatience and despondency. Save us from immoderate care for temporal things, and from neglect of those things which are eternal. Remember, we beseech thee, thy ancient mercies; and, though we have not shown the love and duty of sons, yet do not thou cast off the kindness and compassion of a father. Hear us, O Lord; for our trust is in thee. Amen.

OCTOBER 16.

FOR we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven, if so be that being clothed, we shall not be found naked.

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened ; not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

OUR beloved have departed
While we tarry, heavy-hearted,
In the dreary, empty house :
They have ended life's brief story,
They have reached the home of glory,
Over death victorious.

On we haste, to home invited,
There with friends to be united
In a surer bond than here ;
Meeting soon and met for ever :
Glorious hope, forsake us never,
For thy glimmering light is dear.

Ah ! the way is shining clearer,
As we journey ever nearer
To the everlasting home ;
Comrades, who await our landing,
Friends, who round the throne are standing,
We salute you, and we come.

WE praise and thank thee, O God, for all thy faithful servants who have departed this life : mercifully grant, we beseech thee, that we, being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. O Lord, bless all thy people, and may the kingdom of thy Son increase and shine throughout the world. Amen.

OCTOBER 17.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord ; for he is good : because his mercy endureth for ever.

The Lord is on my side ; I will not fear : what can man do unto me ?

The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous : the right hand of the Lord doeth wonderfully.

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Open to me the gates of righteousness : I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord.

COME, my soul, thou must be waking !

Now is breaking

O'er the earth another day.

Come to him who made this splendor ;

See thou render

All thy feeble strength can pay.

Gladly hail the sun returning ;

Ready burning

Be the incense of thy powers :

For the night is safely ended, —

God hath tended

With his care thy helpless hours.

Pray that he may prosper ever

Each endeavor,

When thine aim is good and true ;

But that he may ever thwart thee,

And convert thee,

When thou evil wouldst pursue.

O GOD, mercifully accept the prayers of thy children throughout the world, which shall this day be offered at the footstool of thy throne : give us grace to prepare our hearts, that we may serve thee with reverence and godly fear : grant us a true apprehension of thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of our unworthiness ; that so, approaching thy presence with lowliness and devotion, we may present an offering acceptable to thee, and in the spirit of him who hath taught us how to pray. Amen.

OCTOBER 18.

HAVE not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

But cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day.

Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the Lord your God.

AGAIN, O Lord, I ope mine eyes
Thy glorious light to see,
And share the gifts so largely lent
To thankless man by thee.

And wherefore do I live and breathe?
And wherefore have I still
The mind to know, the sense to choose,
The strength to do thy will?

Is it to grow unto the world
As glides the world from me;
Be one day nearer to the grave,
And further, Lord, from thee?

No! thus too many days I've spent,
To thee, then, this be given;
Teach what I owe to man below,
And to thyself in heaven.

WE bless thee, Almighty Father, for life, and for the knowledge of its origin and its end. Thou hast created us, and not we ourselves. Thou art the Father of our spirits; and the mysterious life that is in us is thine own inspiration. Thou hast encompassed us with the means and opportunities of a divine life. Light shines from heaven. In Jesus Christ we have a living revelation of thy will, and our duty as thy children; and he has called us to be perfect as thou art perfect. Every object we behold is a memorial of thy love; every event of life speaks to us of thee. May we be more worthy of thy favor, now and for ever. Amen.

OCTOBER 19.

ALL that the Father giveth me shall come to me ; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

FEEBLE, helpless, how shall I
Learn to live and learn to die?
Who, O God, my guide shall be?
Who shall lead thy child to thee?
Blessed Father, gracious One,
Thou hast sent thy holy Son ;
He will give the light I need,
He my trembling steps will lead.

Through this world, uncertain, dim,
Let me ever learn of him ;
From his precepts wisdom draw,
Make his life my solemn law.
Thus in deed, and thought, and word,
Led by Jesus Christ the Lord,
In my weakness, thus shall I
Learn to live and learn to die.

O GOD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might create us anew and make us sons of God and heirs of eternal life: grant, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure ; and that we may be more and more conformed to his likeness until our lives' end, and then be admitted into thy glorious and everlasting kingdom. O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings, without charity, are nothing worth: send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Amen.

OCTOBER 20.

MARVELLOUS things did he in the sight of our fathers.

He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through ; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths.

He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

He commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

And rained down manna upon them to eat, and gave them of the corn of heaven.

Man did eat angels' food : he sent them meat to the full.

HE sendeth sun, he sendeth shower ;
Alike they're needful for the flower ;
And joys and tears alike are sent
To give the soul fit nourishment :
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father, thy will, not mine, be done !

Can loving children e'er reprove
With murmurs whom they trust and love ?
Creator ! I would ever be
A trusting, loving child to thee :
As comes to me or cloud or sun,
Father, thy will, not mine, be done !

O GOD, merciful Father, that despiseth not the sighing of a contrite heart, nor the desire of such as be sorrowful : mercifully assist our prayers that we make before thee in all our troubles and adversities, whensoever they oppress us ; and grant that we, thy servants, may evermore give thanks unto thee. O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that thou didst in their days, and in the old time before them. Both now and ever, vouchsafe to defend us, O Lord. Piti-fully behold the sorrows of our hearts. Mercifully forgive the sins of thy people. O Lord, let thy mercy be showered upon us, as we do put our trust in thee. Amen.

OCTOBER 21.

WHEN the ear heard me, then it blessed me ; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me :

Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me : and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

I put on righteousness, and it clothed me : my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

I was a father to the poor : and the cause which I knew not I searched out. My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand. Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.

Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.

FULL-HANDED, glowing autumn
God's loving-kindness crowns ;
O'er all the earth his goodness
In fruitfulness abounds.
In golden fields of harvest
His bounty largely flows ;
O'er painted woods his glory
In gorgeous radiance glows.

In the good man's face so shineth
The glory of the Lord ;
So in his heart aboundeth
The fruitage of the word ;
Like full-ripe corn in harvest,
When comes life's reaping-time,
He shall be safely garnered
In heaven's purer clime.

FATHER, we thank thee for the faithful souls that have blessed the world, whose lives shine as the light ; holy ones who have feared God, who have bravely upheld the right, and generously lived for others' good ; who have freely chosen suffering rather than sin, and felt thy favor to be better than life. Oh, may their pure and noble lives animate and quicken our hearts ! And in our souls may there burn a desire like them to become true children of God. Amen.

OCTOBER 22.

UNTO thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known unto God.

Pray without ceasing.

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

PRAYER is the soul's sincere desire,
Unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.
Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
The Majesty on high.
Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer.

O BLESSED and eternal God, enable us to understand and make use of all the proper helps of duty; and kindle in our souls a flame of devotion which no difficulty or contradiction, no infirmity within or persecution without, may ever extinguish. Give us grace that we may in all things ask first what is thy good pleasure, follow the best examples, do the noblest charities; ever pressing forward to the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus. Grant that we may keep watch against the omission of any part of our duty, and the neglect of any opportunity by which thou canst be glorified, or any fellow-man instructed, assisted, or comforted. Amen.

OCTOBER 23.

THE memorial of virtue is immortal; because it is known with God, and with men.

When it is present, men take example at it; and when it is gone they desire it: it weareth a crown, and triumpheth for ever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards.

For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years; but wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age.

Thus the righteous that is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living: and youth that is soon perfected, the many years and old age of the unrighteous.

WE have not wings, we cannot soar;
But we have feet to scale and climb,
By slow degrees, by more and more,
The cloudy summits of our time.

All common things — each day's events,
That with the hour begin and end;
Our pleasures and our discontents —
Are rounds by which we may ascend.

The heights by great men reached and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight;
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night.

HEAVENLY Father, who hast kindly awakened us to renewed life, as we go forth this day, may a lively sense of duty so penetrate and sanctify our humblest labors, that, whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, we shall live to thy glory. To the great principles of right illustrated in Jesus may we unreservedly commit ourselves, and follow without faltering wherever they shall show the way. And though they summon us to surrender our dearest earthly interests, may we willingly give up all outward good for the richer satisfactions to which they surely lead. Amen.

OCTOBER 24.

WE are troubled on every side, yet not distressed ; we are perplexed, but not in despair ; persecuted, but not forsaken ; cast down, but not destroyed ; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

For which cause we faint not ; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory ; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen : for the things which are seen are temporal ; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

GIVE me a faith shall never fail,
One that shall always work by love ;
And then, whatever foes assail,
They shall but higher courage move :
More boldly for the truth to strive,
And more by faith in thee to live.

A heart, that when my days are glad,
May never from thy way decline,
And when the sky of life grows sad,
May still submit its will to thine, —
A heart that loves to trust in thee,
A patient heart, create in me !

O GOD, thou art our hope and our strength, a very present help in time of need. Look down upon us with thy fatherly pity, and give us hearts wholly resigned to thy divine will. May we have such firm confidence in thy good providence as not to increase our trouble by our own infirmities. Take from us gloomy forebodings and a spirit of fear. Blessed be thy name, our sorrows are finite and temporal, less than our sins, and infinitely less than thy mercies. Oh ! may it be our great care to please thee, our only fear lest we should sin against thee. Let thy loving-kindness be our portion, thy Spirit our guide, thy law the rule of our conduct ; and so with patience may we wait till this cloud is passed over. Amen.

OCTOBER 25.

TAKE heed, and beware of covetousness ; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully : and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits ?

And he said, This will I do : I will pull down my barns, and build greater ; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years ; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee : then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided ?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

NOTHING but leaves ! The spirit grieves
Over a wasted life ;
Sin committed while conscience slept,
Promises made but never kept,
Hatred, battle, and strife ;
Nothing but leaves.

Nothing but leaves ; no garnered sheaves
Of life's fair, ripened grain ;
Words, idle words, for earnest deeds ;
We sow our seeds, — lo ! tares and weeds.
We reap with toil and pain
Nothing but leaves.

And shall we meet the Master so,
Bearing our withered leaves ?
The Master looks for perfect fruit, —
We stand before him, humbled, mute,
Waiting the words he breathes, —
“Nothing but leaves ?”

MERCIFULLY pour into our hearts, O Lord God, the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that by sighs and tears we may wash away the stains of our sins ; and enable us to present our bodies and souls to thee a pure and acceptable offering, after the pattern of him who was well-pleasing in thy sight. Amen.

OCTOBER 26.

EVERY man shall bear his own burden.

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Be not deceived ; God is not mocked : for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption ; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

And let us not be weary in well doing : for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.

ONE by one thy duties wait thee ;
Let thy whole strength go to each ;
Let no future dreams elate thee ;
Learn thou first what these can teach.

One by one — bright gifts from heaven —
Joys are sent thee here below ;
Take them readily when given ;
Ready be to let them go.

One by one thy griefs shall meet thee ;
Do not fear an armed band ;
One will fade as others greet thee, —
Shadows passing through the land.

WE praise thee, O God, who hast opened to us thy good treasure, and given us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Blessed be God for the plenty wherewith he hath loaded the earth. He watcheth over all the earth, and causeth it to bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater. Let all the world rejoice and be glad in him who prepareth a table for us, and satisfieth our mouths with good things, and maketh our cup to run over. O that our hearts may overflow with love and thankfulness to thee, O God ; that we may never forget or abuse thy goodness ; but by a sober, charitable, and devout use of thy blessings, may be made fit for the continual increase of them, till they be perfected in eternal life. Amen.

OCTOBER 27.

THE hope of the ungodly is like dust that is blown away with the wind ; like a thin froth that is driven away with the storm ; like as the smoke which is dispersed here and there with a tempest, and passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but a day.

But the righteous live for evermore ; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High.

Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand ; for with his right hand shall he cover them, and with his arm shall he protect them.

NONE was ever left a prey,
None was ever turned away,
Who had given himself to God,
And on him had cast his load.
Who in God his hope hath placed
Shall not life in pain outwaste,
Fullest joy he yet shall taste.

I will meet distress and pain,
I will greet e'en Death's dark reign,
I will lay me in the grave,
With a heart still glad and brave ;
Whom the strongest doth defend,
Whom the Highest counts his friend,
Cannot perish in the end.

STRENGTHEN us, O God, by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Grant us to be strengthened with might in the inner man, and to empty our hearts of all unprofitable care and anguish ; not to be drawn aside by sundry temporal desires, but to look on all things as passing away, on ourselves also as soon to pass away with them. O Lord, grant us heavenly wisdom, that we may learn above all things to love and delight in thee, and to think of all other things as they are according to the disposal of thy wisdom. Thou art the true peace of the heart, thou its only rest. Teach us, O Lord, to do thy will ; teach us to live worthily and humbly in thy sight. Amen.

OCTOBER 28.

AND he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves : for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you : this do in remembrance of me.

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

O LOVE divine ! that stooped to share
Our sharpest pang, our bitterest tear,
On thee we cast our earth-born care,
We smile at pain while thou art near !
Though long the weary way we tread,
And sorrow crown each lingering year,
No path we shun, no darkness dread ;
Our hearts still whispering, thou art near !

When drooping pleasure turns to grief,
And trembling faith is changed to fear,
The murmuring wind, the quivering leaf,
Shall softly tell us thou art near !
On thee we fling our burdening woe,
O Love divine ! for ever dear,
Content to suffer, while we know,
Living and dying, thou art near !

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who by thy best-beloved Son hast opened to us a fountain of living water : grant, we pray thee, that we may so drink of this water as to be refreshed in all our weariness of spirit, to be strengthened for thy blessed service, and to have within us a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve : pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy ; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through thy great love revealed to us by Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OCTOBER 29.

LET love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil ; cleave to that which is good.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love ; in honor preferring one another ; not slothful in business ; fervent in spirit ; serving the Lord ; rejoicing in hope ; patient in tribulation ; continuing instant in prayer ; distributing to the necessity of saints ; given to hospitality.

Bless them which persecute you : bless, and curse not.

Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

SWEET are the joys of home,
And pure as sweet ; for they
Like dews of morn and evening come,
To wake and close the day.
The world hath its delights,
And its delusions too ;
But home to calmer bliss invites,
More tranquil and more true.

The pilgrim's step in vain
Seeks Eden's sacred ground ;
But in home's holy joys, again
An Eden may be found.
A glance of heaven to see,
To none on earth is given ;
And yet a happy family
Is but an earlier heaven.

O THOU Giver of all good, while we thank thee for thy mercies, we ask for wisdom rightfully to use thy bounty ; let not our prosperity be our ruin, or thy good gifts nourish in us pride and presumption, or lust and intemperance, or thy favor lead us to forget thee. May we value things temporal only as they help us gain the things eternal. May we never think we prosper, unless our souls prosper ; or that we are rich, unless we are rich towards God ; or that we are wise, unless we are wise unto salvation. Amen.

BECAUSE thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing ; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked ; I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich ; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear ; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve that thou mayest see.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock ; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne.

WHAT may we take into the vast forever ?
That marble door
Admits no fruit of our long endeavor,
No fame-wreathed crown we wore,
No garnered lore.

What can we bear beyond the unknown portal ?
No gold, no gains
Of all our toiling ; in the life immortal
No hoarded wealth remains,
Nor gilds, nor stains.

Yet fearless toward that midnight, dark and hollow,
Our footsteps fare ;
The beckoning of a Father's hand we follow, —
His love alone is there :
No curse, no care.

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us ; and so prepare our spirits that we may accomplish whatsoever thou desirest of us, and approve ourselves in thy sight as humble disciples of thy Son Jesus Christ. O Holy Father, give us a lively view of heaven by the eye of faith ; and so raise our minds thither that we may always have our thoughts, our desires, and our conversation purified ; and may our best affections be set on things above. Amen.

OCTOBER 31.

WHAT man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

JUST as I am, — without one plea
But that thy love is seeking me,
And that thou bid'st me come to thee, —
O loving God! I come.

Just as I am, — and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee whose love can cleanse each spot, —
O loving God! I come.

Just as I am, — though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within, and fears without, —
O loving God! I come.

Just as I am : — thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, heal, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe, —
O loving God! I come.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father: we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

NOVEMBER 1.

PRECIIOUS in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints.

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.

FOR all thy saints, O God,
Who strove in Christ to live,
Who followed him, obeyed, adored,
Our grateful hymn receive.
For all thy saints, O God,
Accept our thankful cry,
Who counted Christ their great reward,
And yearned for him to die.

They all, in life and death,
With him, their Lord, in view,
Learned from thy Holy Spirit's breath
To suffer and to do.
For this thy name we bless,
And humbly pray that we
May follow them in holiness,
And live and die in thee.

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together all generations of the faithful in one communion and fellowship, in thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord: grant us grace to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living; and make us partakers with them of those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee. O Lord most high, with thy whole church throughout the world we give thanks to thee for all thy saints departed; and for the hope of future joy in the resurrection of the just. Oh! let the cloud of witnesses, the innumerable company of those who have gone before and entered into rest, be to us an example of godly life: even now may we rejoice in their happiness; and with patience may we so run the race that is set before us as to have an entrance administered abundantly into thy heavenly presence, to be united with them and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOVEMBER 2.

BEHOLD, all souls are mine ; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine : the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right, and hath not oppressed any, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment ; he that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgment between man and man, hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly ; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord God.

Honor all men.

For there is no respect of persons with God.

God of the living, in whose eyes
Unveiled thy whole creation lies !
All souls are thine : we must not say,
That those are dead who pass away ;
From this our world of flesh set free,
We know them living unto thee.

Released from earthly toil and strife,
With thee is hidden still their life ;
Thine are their thoughts, their works, their powers,
All thine, and yet most truly ours ;
For well we know, where'er they be,
Our dead are living unto thee.

Thy word is true, thy will is just ;
To thee we leave them, Lord, in trust ;
And bless thee for the love which gave
Thy Son to fill a human grave,
That none might fear that world to see
Where all are living unto thee.

O THOU Father of all souls : we rejoice to know that thou hast never left the world without a witness of thyself ; giving thy children rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, and filling our hearts with food and gladness, and rendering to every man according to his deeds. O God, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy : mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we may run the way of thy commandments, and be made partakers of thy heavenly blessedness. Amen.

NOVEMBER 3.

FOR we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom ; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

NEED it is we raise our eyes
Up from earth towards the skies ;
Thinking of the souls that rest
In the mansions of the blest ;
Lest we faint in our distress
Through exceeding heaviness.

Thee in them, O Lord most high,
Thee in them we glorify :
Noble athletes, that went home
Through the sea of martyrdom ;
And the saints, through toil and shame,
Brave confessors of thy name.

Let their praises, heavenly King,
Let the blessed hymn they sing,
Some, though faintest, echo gain
In our own poor broken strain ;
Till one day shall join all powers
In one anthem, — theirs and ours.

HEAVENLY Father, we would call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless and praise thy holy name, and to forget not thy benefits, who forgiveth our iniquities, who healeth our diseases ; who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercy. Oh ! teach us to thank thee aright ; to show forth thy praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Amen.

NOVEMBER 4.

A CERTAIN man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way ; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was ; and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him : and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves ?

And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Who is thy neighbor ? he whom thou
Hast power to aid or bless ;
Whose aching heart or burning brow
Thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbor ? pass no sufferer by :
Perhaps thou canst redeem
A breaking heart from misery ;
Go share thy lot with him.

O LORD, strengthen our faith ; kindle it more in fervor and in love to thee and to our neighbor. Suffer us not to receive thy word in vain ; grant us thy grace, that in heart, word, and deed we may be thine for evermore. Amen.

NOVEMBER 5.

AND the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

ONE sweetly welcome thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er,
I am nearer home to-day
Than I ever have been before.
Nearer my Father's house
Where the many mansions be,
Nearer the great white throne,
Nearer the crystal sea.

Nearer that bound of life
Where we lay our burdens down,
Nearer leaving the cross,
Nearer gaining the crown.
Father, perfect my trust;
Let my spirit feel in death
That her feet are firmly set
On the rock of a living faith.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God: accept, we beseech thee, of thy goodness, the high praise and heartfelt thanks we offer unto thee for thy wonderful graces manifested in thy saints, who have shone forth as lights in their several generations; Patriarchs, Prophets, and Martyrs, whom we commemorate with gladness of heart; and for whom, with all other thy happy servants, our fathers and brethren, departed this life in thy faith and fear, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; humbly entreating that we may have grace so to follow their blessed examples, that, when we also take our leave of this world, we may be united with them in the resurrection of the just and the fellowship of heaven. Amen.

NOVEMBER 6.

BE watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy words perfect before God.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life.

Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God.

EVERY sorrow, every smart,
That the eternal Father's heart
Hath appointed me of yore,
Or hath yet for me in store,
As my life flows on I'll take
Calmly, gladly, for his sake,
No more faithless murmurs make.

I will meet distress and pain,
I will greet e'en Death's dark reign,
I will lay me in the grave
With a heart still glad and brave.
Whom the strongest doth defend,
Whom the Highest counts his friend,
Cannot perish in the end.

O GOD, who faintest not, neither art weary; whose everlasting work is still fresh as thy creative thought: we bless thee for the pity of night and sleep, giving us the rest thou never needest. We would lie down each evening in peace and thankfulness, and commit the folded hours to thee. We would rise each morning to a new and nobler service. O Lord, through toil and repose, save us from any fatal slumber of the spirit, and keep us through life to the holy vigils of love and service, as they that watch for thy morning of eternity. Amen.

NOVEMBER 7.

BRETHREN, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

SPEAK gently, — it is better far
To rule by love than fear ;
Speak gently, — let no harsh word mar
The good we may do here.

Speak gently to the erring ones ;
They must have toiled in vain ;
Perchance unkindness made them so ;
Oh ! win them back again !

Speak gently, — 'tis a little thing,
Dropped in the heart's deep well ;
The good, the joy, that it may bring,
Eternity shall tell.

HOLY and blessed Lord our God, who knowest all our thoughts and all the secrets of our hearts: we pray thee to hear us. Lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and give us peace. Give unto us a pure heart and a right spirit. May we strive to do what is pleasing in thy sight. May we be careful never to offend thee in thought, word, or deed. May we look unto Jesus and learn of him. May we ever speak the truth, and be just and kind. As our days and years pass on, may we grow in wisdom and spiritual stature, and in favor with God and man. When we sin, wilt thou forgive us? when we wander, wilt thou restore us? when we are in sorrow, wilt thou comfort us? While we live, may we love and serve thee; in the hour of death, may we rest upon thee; and after death, may we rise to praise thee. These things we humbly ask in the faith and spirit of thy Son. Amen.

NOVEMBER 8.

AND who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for 'righteousness' sake, happy are ye : and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled ;

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts : and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear :

Having a good conscience : that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evil doers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

MUCH in sorrow, oft in woe,
Onward, Christians, onward go ;
Fight the fight, and, worn with strife,
Steep with tears the bread of life.

Onward, Christians, onward go ;
Join the war, and face the foe ;
Faint not ! much doth yet remain,
Dreary is the long campaign.

Let your drooping hearts be glad ;
March in heavenly armor clad ;
Fight, nor think the battle long ;
Victory soon shall tune your song.

HOW unspeakably great is thy goodness, O God, and all other blessings are as nothing when compared with the sublime, pure, infinite glory to which we are called by the gospel of thy Son. May Christ be precious to us ; teach us his worth, his glory, so that we may love him and rejoice in him with joy unspeakable. May a sense of the greatness of the evils from which he came to deliver, and of the blessings which he can bestow, excite our sensibility, gratitude, desire, and lead our minds to dwell on him. Let sin be our greatest burden ; may all life's ills seem light in comparison with it ; may we be more earnest in resisting it than in resisting all other evils ; and may we welcome Christ as our Saviour from it. May thy truth make us free ; and may our hearts burn with the desire to do thy will. Amen.

NOVEMBER 9.

FINALLY, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another ; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous : not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing : but contrariwise blessing ; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile : let him eschew evil, and do good ; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers : but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

God liveth ever !
Wherefore, soul, despair thou never !
Our God is good, in every place
His love is known, his help is found ;
His mighty arm and tender grace
Bring good from ills that hem us round.
Easier than we think, can he
Turn to joy our agony.
Soul, remember, 'mid thy pains,
God o'er all for ever reigns.

God liveth ever !
Wherefore, soul, despair thou never !
What though thou tread with bleeding feet
A thorny path of grief and gloom ?
Thy God will choose the way most meet
To lead thee heavenwards, lead thee home.
For this life's long night of sadness
He will give thee peace and gladness.
Soul, forget not in thy pains
God o'er all for ever reigns.

MOST merciful Father, we beseech thee, let our sincere endeavors to know thee, in all the ways whereby thou hast discovered thyself, be crowned with such success that, our souls being established in every needful truth by thy Holy Spirit, we may spend our whole lives according to the rules of thy gospel, and may, with all thy holy and happy creation, ascribe glory and honor, wisdom and power, to thee who sittest upon the throne. Amen.

NOVEMBER 10.

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me.
Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising,
thou understandest my thought afar off.

Thou seest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

For before the word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

LORD of all being! throned afar,
Thy glory flames from star to star;
Centre and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!

Sun of our life, thy quickening ray
Sheds on our path the glow of day;
Star of our hope, thy softened light
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Lord of all life, below, above,
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,
Before thy ever-blazing throne
We ask no lustre of our own.

Grant us thy truth to make us free;
And kindling hearts that burn for thee,
Till all thy living altars claim
One holy light, one heavenly flame.

ALMIGHTY God, great Creator of all: thy children bow before thy throne. Though we see thee not with the outward eye, and hear thee not with the ear, thou teachest us by thy Spirit, and by the life of Jesus Christ thy Son, that thou art nigh to them that call upon thee; that thou art the rewarder of all them that diligently seek thee. The dark silence of the night, and the bright gladness of the day, continually show forth thy love. Thou hast borne with our sins, and invited us to repentance. Thou hast sent thy dearly beloved Son to call us home to heaven and to thee. And when the service of life is ended, may we give thee purer worship in heaven. Amen.

NOVEMBER 11.

AND be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children ; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

WE plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land ;
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.
All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above :
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord,
For all his love !

We thank thee, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good, —
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
For all thy love imparts,
And — what thou most desirest —
Our humble, thankful hearts.
All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above :
Then thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord,
For all his love.

OTHOU whose sleepless providence shelters and sustains us through darkness and danger : our hearts rise to thee in gratitude and trust. To thy service we dedicate our time and talents, all that we are and have, asking renewed light and strength for all our needs. Father, fill us with thine own spirit of justice, mercy, and truth. May thy will be ours in duty and in trial, and in acquaintance with thee may our souls find peace. Amen.

NOVEMBER 12.

I WISDOM dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom : I am understanding ; I have strength.

I love them that love me ; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Riches and honor are with me ; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold ; and my revenue than choice silver.

I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment :

That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance ; and I will fill their treasures.

ALMIGHTY Father ! thou hast many a blessing
In store for every erring child of thine ;
For this I pray, — let me, thy grace possessing,
Seek to be guided by thy will divine.

Not for earth's treasures, for her joys the dearest,
Would I my supplications raise to thee ;
Not for the hopes that to my heart are nearest,
But only that I give that heart to thee.

I pray that thou wouldst guide and guard me ever ;
Cleanse, by thy power, from every stain of sin ;
I will thy blessing ask on each endeavor,
And thus thy promised peace my soul shall win.

MERCIFUL God, we are overwhelmed with a sense of thy great goodness. Sanctify our joys. Teach us how to serve thee better. Make us grateful always. And when dark days come, let the remembrance of thy mercies keep us brave and true. Thine we are. Thee would we ever trust and worship and serve. Make us pure and loving and loyal. Take from us all vain thoughts and foolish pride. Teach us to seek thee in all things. Enlarge and quicken our faith. Pour into our souls thy Spirit. Make our whole lives one grateful, loving, and acceptable service, that we may become truly thy children, and that we may feel that thou art indeed our Father. Amen.

NOVEMBER 13.

BUT they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in desolation and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil : which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things ; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.

THOU hidden love of God, whose height,
Whose depth unfathomed, no man knows,
I see from far thy beauteous light,
Inly I sigh for thy repose.
My heart is pained ; nor can it be
At rest till it find rest in thee.

Thy secret voice invites me still
The sweetness of thy yoke to prove ;
And fain I would, but though my will
Seem fixed, yet wide my passions rove ;
Yet hindrances strew all the way :
I aim at thee, yet from thee stray.

Is there a thing beneath the sun
That strives with thee my heart to share ?
Ah ! tear it thence, and reign alone,
The Lord of every motion there !
Then shall my heart from earth be free,
When it hath found repose in thee.

O THOU unseen Spirit, who art not far from us at any time : we seek thee. May we feel that thou art our Father and best Friend. We have no gifts for thee ; but thy hand is ever full of gifts for us, enriching us with thy bounty and love when we come unto thee. When thou sayest, Seek ye my face, may our hearts reply, Thy face will we seek. Teach us how to seek thee aright, with pure hearts and sincere desires, striving to love and obey thee. Our Father, forgive our sins, and help us to forsake them ; to hate all manner of wrong ; to love all that is right ; and so to live all our days here, that, when thou callest us, we may be ready for the heavenly home. Amen.

NOVEMBER 14.

THE Lord seeth not as man seeth : for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

Here is the patience of the saints ; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth ; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors ; and their works do follow them.

And there shall be no night there ; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun ; for the Lord God giveth them light : and they shall reign for ever and ever.

THE time for toil is past, and night is come, —
The last and saddest of the harvest eves.
Worn out with labor long and wearisome,
Drooping and faint, the reapers hasten home,
Each laden with his sheaves.

Full well I know I have more tares than wheat,
Brambles and flowers, dry stalks and withered leaves ;
Wherefore I blush and weep, as at thy feet
I kneel down reverently, and repeat,
Master, behold my sheaves !

Yet do I gather strength and hope anew :
For well I know thy patient love perceives
Not what I did, but what I strove to do ;
And, though the full, ripe ears be sadly few,
Thou wilt accept my sheaves.

FATHER of mercies, the only rest of weary souls, the only joy of sorrowful hearts : pity the helpless ; be a friend to the widow and the orphan ; succor the poor and oppressed ; deliver the tempted ; sustain the sick, and receive in mercy the spirits of the dying. O God, in thy fatherly tenderness send relief or consolation to all the afflicted, through the angel of mercy that strengthened thy Son to drink the bitter cup. O Thou who dost look upon the heart, make us pure and true, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

NOVEMBER 15.

BLESSED be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled.
Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven:

FROM the recesses of a lowly spirit,
Our humble prayer ascends; O Father! hear it,
Upsoaring on the wings of awe and meekness;
Forgive its weakness!

We see thy hand; it leads us, it supports us:
We hear thy voice; it counsels and it courts us;
And then we turn away, and still thy kindness
Forgives our blindness.

Oh, how long-suffering, Lord! but thou delightest
To win with love the wandering; thou invitest,
By smiles of mercy, not by frowns or terrors,
Man from his errors.

Father and Saviour! plant within each bosom
The seeds of holiness; and bid them blossom
In fragrance and in beauty bright and vernal,
And spring eternal.

Then place them in thine everlasting gardens,
Where angels walk, and seraphs are the wardens;
Where every flower, escaped through death's dark portal,
Becomes immortal.

FATHER in heaven, we thank thee for home and its joys, for friends and their love, for healthful bodies and cheerful spirits, for the fair world in which we live, for the innocent delights which attend our path, for the fond hopes which invite us on. Thy gifts are more than we can number; our tongues shall praise thee with joyful words. Let the love of God be spread abroad through all the world, and peace and joy fill the whole earth; and to thee be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

NOVEMBER 16.

THOU wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee : because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord for ever : for in the Lord is everlasting strength :

The way of the just is uprightness : thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just.

SWEET is the solace of thy love,
My heavenly Friend, to me,
While through the hidden way of faith
I journey home with thee,
Learning by quiet thankfulness
As a dear child to be.

Oh ! there is nothing in the world
To weigh against thy will :
Even the dark times I dread the most
Thy covenant fulfil ;
And when the pleasant morning dawns
I find thee with me still.

O THOU Almighty Friend, who lovest all and forgettest none : we offer up our humble supplications. That we may walk in our homes with a perfect heart, unite us to one another by mutual love, and to thyself by works of piety and holiness. Be thou a shield to the young, and a staff to the aged. May parents bring up their children in holy nurture ; and may children love, honor, and obey their parents. When we are laid in our graves, may those who come after us serve thee in their day better than we have done in ours, and be unto thee a name and a praise in all generations. In thy fatherly loving-kindness, O Lord, be thou the strength of the needy, a refuge from the storm, and a shadow from the heat. Be a father to the fatherless ; support those who are on the bed of languishing ; and, according to the greatness of thy power, preserve thou those that are appointed to die. O Thou who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth : remember every work of thy hand for good ; and visit the world in that mercy which thou hast so signally manifested in Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOVEMBER 17.

NOW it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village : and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things : but one thing is needful ; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

FATHER, in thy mysterious presence kneeling,
Fain would our souls feel all thy kindling love ;
For we are weak, and need some deep revealing
Of trust and strength and calmness from above.

Lord, we have wandered forth through doubt and sorrow,
And thou hast made each step an onward one ;
And we will ever trust each unknown morrow, —
Thou wilt sustain us till its work is done.

In the heart's depths a peace serene and holy
Abides ; and when pain seems to have her will,
Or we despair, oh, may that peace rise slowly,
Stronger than agony, and we be still !

Now, Father, now, in thy dear presence kneeling,
Our spirits yearn to feel thy kindling love ;
Now make us strong, we need thy deep revealing
Of trust and strength and calmness from above.

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth : send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Amen.

NOVEMBER 18.

I WILL praise thee ; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made : marvellous are thy works ; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unformed ; and in thy book was every thing written ; my days were appointed when as yet there was none of them.

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God ! how great is the sum of them !

If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand : when I awake, I am still with thee.

Search me, O God, and know my heart : try me, and know my thoughts : and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

My God I thank thee who hast made
The earth so bright ;
So full of splendor and of joy,
Beauty, and light ;
So many glorious things are here,
Noble and right !

I thank thee, Lord, that thou hast kept
The best in store ;
We have enough, yet not too much
To long for more ; —
A yearning for a deeper peace
Not known before.

O GOD, we bless thee for the joy of renewed life. Give us faith in things eternal. May we know that things holy and noble and true alone are real and enduring. May we believe in the right, and know that the righteous Lord rules for evermore. Help us to resist temptation, to conquer self and sin, to overcome all obstacles to the better life, to press on and up in the way of holiness that leads to heaven and thee. Help us to be faithful to that law which thou hast written in every conscience and heart, which runs its lines through the universe, which for ever renders the way of the transgressor hard, and the way of wisdom the way of pleasantness and peace. Amen.

NOVEMBER 19.

THEREFORE are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple : and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more ; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters : and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

To weary hearts, to mourning homes,
God's meekest angel gently comes ;
No power has he to banish pain,
Or give us back our lost again :
And yet in tenderest love our dear
And heavenly Father sends him here.

There's quiet in that angel's glance ;
There's rest in his still countenance ;
He mocks no grief with idle cheer,
Nor wounds with words the mourner's ear ;
But ills and woes he may not cure
He kindly trains us to endure.

Angel of patience, sent to calm
Our feverish brows with cooling palm,
To lay the storms of doubt and fear,
And reconcile life's smile and tear,
'The throbs of wounded pride to still,
And make our own our Father's will.

O thou who mournest on thy way
With longings for the close of day,
He walks with thee, that angel kind,
And gently whispers, Be resigned ;
Bear up, bear up : the end shall tell
The dear Lord worketh all things well.

MAY thy Holy Spirit, O our Father, comfort our hearts and enable us to endure tribulation. Teach us to feel the vanity of outward joys, to delight in thy word, to study thy will, to obey thy law, and to work out our own salvation. And, when summoned hence may we be prepared for that heavenly state where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, where there shall be no more crying or pain, no more sickness, decay nor death. Amen.

NOVEMBER 20.

WHITHER shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in the grave, behold, thou art there,

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.

Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

LORD God of morning and of night!
We thank thee for thy gift of light;
As in the dawn the shadows fly,
We seem to find thee now more nigh.

Fresh hopes have wakened in the heart
Fresh force to do our daily part;
Thy thousand sleeps our strength restore
A thousand-fold to serve thee more.

O Lord of lights! 'tis thou alone
Canst make our darkened hearts thine own;
Though this new day with joy we see,
Great dawn of God! we cry for thee!

Praise God, our Maker and our Friend;
Praise him through time, till time shall end:
Till psalm and song his name adore
Through heaven's great day of Evermore.

O LORD our God, we beseech thee to give us understanding, and to enable us to do thy will. We offer ourselves entirely to thee. Receive us, O God, as thy servants, and appoint us our duty. We renounce every wish that may be contrary to thy gracious providence, and only pray that we may be employed to work out thy hallowed designs, and may prove ourselves faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOVEMBER 21.

AND as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat ; this is my body.

And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them : and they all drank of it.

And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

BURDEN of shame and woe !
How does the heart o'erflow
At thought of him the bitter cross who bore !
But we have each our own,
To others oft unknown,
Which we must bear till life shall be no more.

And shall we fear to tread
The path where Jesus led,
The pure and holy one, for man who died ?
Or shall we shrink from shame,
Endured for Jesus' name,
Our glorious Lord, once spurned and crucified ?

Then, 'mid the woes that wait
On this our mortal state,
Patience shall cheer affliction, toil, and loss ;
And, though the tempter's art
Assail the struggling heart,
Still, Saviour ! in thy name we bear the cross.

ENLIGHTEN our understandings, O our Father, that we may know the wonderful things of thy law, the greatness of thy love in Christ, the mysteries of thy kingdom, and the riches of thine eternal glory. We beseech thee, O Lord, that our bodies may be servants to our spirits, and both our bodies and our spirits be thy servants. Teach us what thou wouldst have us do ; and uphold us by thy mighty power, that every work of ours may begin always from thee, and by thee be happily ended. Hear us, we beseech thee, O Lord, for thy mercy's sake, Amen.

NOVEMBER 22.

SAY to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water:

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

THANKS be to him who built the hills;
Thanks be to him the streams who fills;
Thanks be to him who lights each star
That sparkles in the blue afar.

Thanks be to him who makes the morn,
And bids it glow with beams new born;
Who draws the shadows of the night,
Like curtains, o'er our wearied sight.

Thanks be to him who sheds abroad,
Within our hearts, the love of God,—
The Spirit of all truth and peace,
Fountain of joy and holiness.

GIVER of all good, we thank thee for the bounties of nature, and for the kindly fruits of the earth; sanctify them to our use. May we enjoy all with gratitude and innocency. Give to us true repentance; forgive us all our ignorance, negligence, and sin. Endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy word. O Lord, deal not with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities. Have mercy upon us, and save us from all evil both present and to come. Amen.

NOVEMBER 23.

BEWARE that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God,

Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

THY goodness, Lord, our souls confess;
Thy goodness we adore,—
A spring whose blessings never fail,
A sea without a shore.

Thy bounty every season crowns
With all the bliss it yields,
With joyful clusters loads the vines,
With strengthening grain the fields.

But chiefly thy compassion, Lord,
Is in thy gospel seen;
There like a sun thy mercy shines,
Without a cloud between.

ANOTHER day has come, O Lord, bringing fresh messages of heaven: may it carry away new testimony to our fidelity. Through all duty, trial, and enjoyment, let us never lose sight of the end for which this life on earth is given, but remember our vocation as children of God and heirs of immortality. Order all circumstances for our spiritual and everlasting good. Help us to avoid every thing offensive in thy pure sight. Give us inward purity, that we may see thee and things invisible; and meekness of spirit, that we may enter into the kingdom of heaven, and evermore live above the world while we are in it. Amen.

NOVEMBER 24.

AWAKE, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. O Lord, be gracious unto us ; we have waited for thee, be thou our arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble. Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory.

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save ; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

But our iniquities have separated between us and our God, and our sins have hid his face from us, that he will not hear.

FROM foes that would the land devour ;
From guilty pride and lust of power ;
From wild sedition's lawless hour ;
 From yoke of slavery ;
From blinded zeal by faction led ;
From giddy change by fancy bred ;
From poisonous error's serpent head, —
 Good Lord, preserve us free !

Defend, O God, with guardian hand,
The laws and rulers of our land ;
And grant thy church the grace to stand
 In faith and unity !
Thy Spirit's help of thee we pray,
That we may shorten, day by day,
Thy blessed kingdom's long delay,
 By freely serving thee !

O LORD, our heavenly Father, who makest men to be of one mind in an house, and stillest both the rage of the sea and the madness of the people : we thank thee for the great blessing of a quiet and well-ordered state, and pray thee by thy grace to keep far from us the spirit of discontent, sedition, and strife : so that, leading peaceable lives in all godliness, we may offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, to the honor of thy holy name. Grant us ever to acknowledge thy salvation ; and in thy providence bid the violence of wrong-doers be still : but hasten the time when out of victory shall come perpetual peace, and every tyrant's yoke be broken, and every slave go free, and all nations of the earth praise thee in one family, as sheep under one shepherd. Amen.

NOVEMBER 25.

FOR the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills ; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig-trees, and pomegranates ; a land of oil, olive, and honey ; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it ; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

IN pleasant lands have fallen the lines
That bound our goodly heritage ;
And, safe beneath our sheltering vines,
Our youth is blest, and soothed our age.
What thanks, O God, to thee are due,
That thou didst plant our fathers here,
And watch and guard them as they grew
A vineyard to the planter dear !

The toils they bore our ease have wrought :
They sowed in tears, — in joy we reap ;
The birthright they so dearly bought,
We'll guard till we with them shall sleep.
Thy kindness to our fathers shown,
In weal and woe, through all the past,
Their grateful sons, O God, shall own
While here their name and race shall last.

FATHER, we thank thee for the joy of life, and the fair world in which we live ; for the fragrance and beauty of the spring, the genial warmth and rich fruitage of the summer, and the bountiful harvests that crown the year. We thank thee that our lines have fallen in pleasant places, and for all the heritage of good into which we have been born. We bless thee for every good institution : for schools and churches ; for that liberty wherewith thou makest all men free. We thank thee for the excellent example of the faithful ones who have gone before us ; and we pray that we may be worthy of our high privilege, and do our part faithfully and well, to leave the world better than we found it, better for our having lived in it. Amen.

NOVEMBER 26.

NOW these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you :

That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life ; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it ; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

FATHER ! thy paternal care
Has my guardian been, my guide :
Every hallowed wish and prayer
Has thy hand of love supplied ;
Thine is every thought of bliss,
Left by hours and days gone by ;
Every hope thine offspring is,
Beaming from futurity.

And for all, my hymns shall rise
Daily to thy gracious throne :
Thither let my asking eyes
Turn unwearied, righteous One !
Through life's strange vicissitude
There reposing all my care ;
Trusting still, through ill and good,
Fixed, and cheered, and counselled there.

O LORD, if we recount thy mercies, they are more than we can number. For the fatherly love that has watched over us by day and by night ; for the genial sunshine, and fertile rain, and fruitful seasons ; for the joyous spring and bounteous autumn ; for all thy good gifts public and private, temporal and spiritual, — we would pay thee our tribute of grateful thanks. May thy mercies be followed by our obedience. While we adore thy goodness, may we keep thy law, and walk in the light of thy favor, and become that happy people whose God is the Lord. Amen.

NOVEMBER 27.

O THAT men would praise the Lord for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

He turned rivers into a wilderness, and the water-springs
into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the
wickedness of them that dwell therein.

He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry
ground into water-springs.

And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may
prepare a city for habitation; and sow the fields, and plant
vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.

Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they
shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.

THE God of harvest praise;
In loud thanksgiving raise
 Hand, heart, and voice.
The valleys laugh and sing;
Forests and mountains ring;
The plains their tribute bring;
 The streams rejoice.

The God of harvest praise;
Hands, hearts, and voices raise
 With sweet accord.
From field to garner throng,
Bearing your sheaves along,
And in your harvest song
 Bless ye the Lord.

GRACIOUS Father, from whom all blessings flow: de-
voutly we thank thee for all thy good gifts: for
food and raiment and health; for the prosperity that
crowns our industry; for the peace that prevails in our bor-
ders; for the privileges of education, and for civil and re-
ligious liberty; for the kindly ties that bind us one to
another, and the sweet fellowships that enrich our life; for
the spiritual manna, the bread that comes from heaven to
feed our souls; and for the blessed hopes of the life to come.
We praise and bless thy name. Oh, may a deep sense of
thy loving-kindness fill our hearts with gratitude, and move
us to swifter service, and stricter conformity to thy most
holy will! Amen.

NOVEMBER 28.

I WILL open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: what we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

For he established statutes, and appointed a law, which he commanded our fathers to make known to their children:

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born: who should declare them to their children:

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

FATHER of mercies ! God of peace !
Being whose bounties never cease !
While to the heavens, in grateful tones,
Ascend our mingled orisons,
Listen to these notes of praise
Which we, thy grateful children, raise!

Our dwellings, sheltered by thy care,
Abodes of peace and plenty are ;
Our tillage by thy blessing yields
An hundredfold from ripened fields ;
And flowing grain and burthened vine
Are tokens of thy love divine.

Teach us our blessings to improve ;
Teach us to serve thee and to love ;
Exalt our hearts, that we may see
The Giver of all good in thee ;
And be thy word our daily food,
Thy service, Lord, our greatest good.

HEAVENLY Father, we beseech thee so to grant us thy favor that we may be guided by heavenly wisdom and restrained by godly fear. Patient in adversity, obedient unto thy laws, using all our powers and possessions in a faithful stewardship, free from the bondage of sin, may we evermore rejoice in the blessings of peace and true prosperity. Amen.

NOVEMBER 29.

I WILL praise the Lord with my whole heart.

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

His work is honorable and glorious : and his righteousness endureth for ever.

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered : the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He hath given meat unto them that fear him : he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

He hath showed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

THANK the Lord, who made the earth,
Gave the seas and heavens birth ;
God the Lord, whose word of might
Out of darkness called the light ;
Full of mercy evermore,
Him, the Lord of lords, adore !

Thank the Lord, who set the sun
Day by day his course to run ;
Lit the moon, serenely bright ;
Spread the stars around the night :
Full of mercy evermore,
Him, the Lord of lords, adore !

Thank the Lord, who heeds our call,
Hears his children, feeds them all ;
Thank the Lord, whose love has given
Man the bread of life from heaven :
Full of mercy evermore,
Him, the Lord of lords, adore !

GIVER of all good, as we rejoice in the mercies that fill our life, may we gratefully remember thee, the source of all our joy, and live to thy glory while we partake of thy bounty. Help us to use this world as not abusing it, and may all temporal prosperities minister to our spiritual welfare and the upbuilding of thy kingdom in the world. May our land be the abode of truth and freedom, of religion and peace. Amen.

NOVEMBER 30.

WHEN this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

YE who have known to weep,
Where your beloved sleep ;
Ye who have raised the deep, the bitter cry, —
God's blessings be as balm,
The fevered heart to calm,
And wondrous peace the troubled mind supply.

Ere daily strifes begin
The war without, within,
The God of love, with spirit and with power,
Now on each bended head
His deepest blessings shed,
And keep us all through every troubled hour.

BE thou, O God, our refuge and our consolation, and our sure trust. The more we are brought to perceive that things seen are temporal, so much the more may we find that the things which are unseen are eternal ; that thou art faithful, and that Christ is worthy, and that heaven and not earth is our home. May we embrace thy promises and be thankful ; may we know that thou art God, and be still. And grant, we beseech thee, O Holy Father and eternal Judge, that we may all live mindful of our duty and our trust, and waiting on thy will ; that, when we have served thee in our generations, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience, and in the hope that neither death nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER 1.

WE are strangers and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

For the time is at hand.

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

LIKE shadows gliding o'er the plain,
Or clouds that roll successive on,
Man's busy generations pass;
And while we gaze their forms are gone.

O Father, in whose mighty hand
The boundless years and ages lie,
Teach us thy boon of life to prize,
And use the moments as they fly; —

To crowd the narrow span of life
With wise designs and virtuous deeds:
And so shall death but lead us on
To nobler service that succeeds.

O GOD, who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to employ all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that whatsoever our hand findeth to do we may do it heartily: yet grant, O good Lord, that no worldly business, no worldly pleasure, may ever divert our thoughts from the life to come. Cheerfully may we go on in the road which thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but, daily seeking our way by thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey to thee, the Fountain of joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along. Then, O Lord, receive us at the gate of life which thou hast opened for us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

DECEMBER 2.

AND he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others : Two men went up into the temple to pray ; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other : for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased ; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

OH ! learn that it is only by the lowly
The paths of peace are trod ;
If thou wouldst keep thy garments white and holy,
Walk humbly with thy God.

The man with earthly wisdom high uplifted
Is in God's sight a fool ;
But he in heavenly truth most deeply gifted
Sits lowest in Christ's school.

The lowly spirit God hath consecrated
As his abiding rest ;
An angel by some patriarch's tent hath waited,
When kings had no such guest.

O GOD, the Creator of summer and winter, of day and night, who dost cause light to shine out of thick gloom, and bringest good out of evil : give us grace so to flee what thou forbiddest, that we may cast aside the works of darkness, and so to choose what thou dost command, that we may be children of light. Since darkness and light alike obey thee, give all the messengers of thy providence charge over us, that, serving thee in peacefulness and thankfulness, we may be brought through humility to serve thee in glory.

DECEMBER 3.

PRAISE ye the Lord : for it is good to sing praises unto our God ; for it is pleasant ; and praise is comely.

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth : his word runneth very swiftly.

He giveth snow like wool : he scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels : who can stand before his cold ?

He sendeth out his word, and melteth them : he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.

He hath not dealt so with any nation : and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord.

'Tis winter now : the gleaming snow
Has left the heavens all cold and clear ;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn :
His life within the keen air breathes ;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
And skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
Home closer draws her circle now,
And warmer glows her light within.

O God ! who givest the winter's cold
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintery days.

FATHER, we see thy love in the order of nature. In all the changes of day and night, of summer and winter, thou art working for the welfare of thy creatures and thy children. O God, we give thee humble and hearty thanks for all the benefits and blessings, both spiritual and temporal, which in the riches of thy great mercy thou hast poured down upon us ; but especially for thy spiritual blessings. Lord, let us not live but to praise and magnify thy great goodness. Grant, we beseech thee, that all our thoughts, words, and works may tend to the discharge of our duty, the good of our fellow-men, and the advancement of thy Son's kingdom on earth. Amen.

DECEMBER 4.

EVERY man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

For we are laborers together with God ; ye are God's husbandry ; ye are God's building.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy : for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Let no man glory in men : for all things are yours ; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come ; all are yours ; and ye are Christ's ; and Christ is God's.

WHATE'ER my God ordains is right ;
My light my life is he,
Who cannot will me aught but good :
I trust him utterly ;
For well I know,
In joy or woe,
We soon shall see as sunlight clear
How faithful was our Guardian here.

Whate'er my God ordains is right,
Here will I take my stand ;
Though sorrow, need, or death make earth
For me a desert land,
My Father's care
Is around me there :
He holds me that I shall not fall,
And so to him I leave it all.

CONVINCE us, O Lord God, that how bad soever the world is, we may serve thee in it ; and that, how frail soever we are, we are under no necessity to sin ; and that how dark soever thy providence is, yet our lot is in wise hands, which will do much better for us than we could for ourselves : for thy thoughts are not as our thoughts, nor thy ways as our ways. To thee, O God, we wholly refer all events, and only beg that we may attend to our present duty, as humble disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECEMBER 5.

AND very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen: he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

It was no path of flowers
Which, through this world of ours,
Beloved of the Father, thou didst tread;
And shall we in dismay
Shrink from the narrow way
When clouds and darkness are around it spread?

And, oh, if thoughts of gloom
Should hover o'er the tomb,
That light of love our guiding star shall be;
Our spirits shall not dread
The shadowy way to tread,
Friend, Guardian, Saviour, which doth lead to thee.

ALMIGHTY God, who dost encourage us to fly to thee as our refuge in distress: refresh thy sorrowing children with the light of thy countenance, and the consolations of thy Holy Spirit. Be thou now to us a Father to those who are in trouble, and a God of comfort to those who mourn. Grant that we, thy servants, may not weep as those who are without hope, nor complain of any thing but ourselves, nor desire any thing but that thy will may be done, nor do any thing but what is agreeable to thy holy word and commandment. O heavenly Father, when thou smitest us, not less than when thou pourest out blessings on us, may our love to thee increase; and, when the few years of our earthly pilgrimage are ended, may we be gathered to our fathers in thy peace, and in the blessed hope of a joyful resurrection. Amen.

DECEMBER 6.

SEE that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

If thou shouldst bless our home with wealth,
Let not the world creep in by stealth
And take away the blessing;
For if our hearts should empty be
Of meekness and humility,
Although all else possessing,
We should miss that true bliss,
Which not all the world's best treasure
Can supply in smallest measure.

TO thee, O Father, we offer thanks for the wondrous gifts that enrich our life. May we never cease to feel the sacred tie of love that binds our souls to thee. Frail and weak as we are, thou hast given us infinite hopes and aspirations, and made us capable of an ever-enlarging life. Thou art with us at home and abroad, in our worship and our work. Thy love is the living fountain of joy, the inspiration of our prayer, the source of all our hope. What can we render thee for all thy mercies? thou desirest only the gift of filial love and obedience. Deepen within us the spirit of true devotion. Open our eyes to behold thy presence. Make our weak souls strong in thy might. Amidst the lights and shadows of our mortality may thy truth and love shine upon our souls with ever-increasing brightness. Bless us, guide us, keep us thine. Amen.

DECEMBER 7.

NOW therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth ; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt ; and serve ye the Lord.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve ; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods.

No man can serve two masters ; for either he will hate the one, and love the other ; or 'else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

THOU canst not choose but serve : — man's lot is servitude ;
But thou hast this much choice, — a bad lord or a good.

Before the eyes of man let duly shine thy light !
But ever let thy life's best part be out of sight.

Wouldst thou do harm, and yet unharmed thyself abide ?
None ever struck another save through his own side.

When thou art fain to trace a map of thine own heart,
As undiscovered land set down the largest part.

God's dealings still are love, his chastenings are alone
Love now compelled to take an altered, louder tone.

INSPIRE us, O our heavenly Father, with a generous love of virtue, of rectitude, of holiness. May we prefer it even to life. Animate us to adhere to it in every danger. May nothing on earth move or shake our steadfastness. Animate us to cheerfulness. May we have a joyful sense of our blessings, learn to look on the bright circumstances of our lot, and maintain a perpetual contentedness under thy allotments. Fortify our minds against disappointment and calamity. Preserve us from despondency, from yielding to dejection. Teach us that no evil is intolerable but a guilty conscience ; and that nothing can hurt us, if with true loyalty of affection we keep thy commandments and take refuge in thee. Amen.

DECEMBER 8.

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations : that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ : whom having not seen, ye love ; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory : receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

THE eager hearts, the souls of fire,
Who pant to toil for God and man ;
And view with eyes of keen desire
The upland way of toil and pain ;
Almost with scorn they think of rest,
Of holy calm, of tranquil breast ;
But God, through ways they have not known,
Will lead his own.

What matter what the path shall be ?
The end is clear and bright to view ;
We know that we a strength shall see,
Whate'er the day may bring to do.
We see the end, the house of God,
But not the path to that abode ;
For God, through ways they have not known,
Will lead his own.

EVER-GRACIOUS Father, who hast brought us to the present time in safety and peace : we render devout thanksgiving for thy mercy, and commend ourselves anew to thy protection. Unworthy though we are, we seek thy face and implore thy favor. Thou hast taught us to look to thee as our Father, who dost never forget or forsake thy children, and art always ready to forgive those who truly repent. Have us in thy holy keeping, and may it be our supreme desire in life that thy will be done. Amen.

DECEMBER 9.

THUS saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.

They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the heat nor sun smite them : for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion ; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head : they shall obtain gladness and joy ; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

GOD moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform ;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up his vast designs,
And works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints ! fresh courage take ;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and will break
In blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace ;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour ;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain ;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

O HEAVENLY Father, thy word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path : we humbly beseech thee that thou wouldest be pleased to open and enlighten our minds, through Jesus Christ who is the true light of the world, that we may understand thy word in its plainness and purity, and frame accordingly the whole course of our lives. Amen.

DECEMBER 10.

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth : for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away ; and there was no more sea.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes ; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain : for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. He that overcometh shall inherit all things ; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

No seas again shall sever,
No desert intervene,
No deep sad-flowing river
Shall roll its tide between,
Love and unsevered union
Of soul with those we love,
Nearness and glad communion
Shall be our joy above.

No dread of wasting sickness,
No thought of ache or pain,
No fretting hours of weakness,
Shall mar our peace again,
No death, our homes o'ershading,
Shall e'er our harps unstring ;
For all is life unfading,
In presence of our King.

ALmighty and ever-living God, we fly to thee as our eternal refuge ; we rest ourselves upon thee, the Rock of Ages. Blessed be thy holy name for the assurance of eternal life which thou hast given us by thy beloved Son ; blessed be thy holy name for the faith which we cherish, that this corruptible shall put on incorruption ; and this mortal immortality ; and that, when the night of the grave is past, a glorious morning will come, when there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. Amen.

DECEMBER 11.

WHAT! know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

. . . use this world as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

HOLY Father, thou hast taught me
I should live to thee alone;
Year by year, thy hand hath brought me
On through dangers oft unknown.
When I wandered, thou hast found me;
When I doubted, sent me light;
Still thine arm has been around me,
All my paths were in thy sight.

I would trust in thy protecting,
Wholly rest upon thine arm,
Follow wholly thy directing,
Thou mine only guard from harm!
Keep me from mine own undoing;
Help me turn to thee when tried;
Still my footsteps, Father, viewing,
Keep me ever at thy side!

O THOU who givest power to the faint and strength to the weary: under the shadow of thy wings will we put our trust. In thine everlasting arms support us; by thy mighty power defend us; let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy goodness and mercy follow us all our days. To thee we dedicate ourselves as our guide through life, our comfort and support in death, and after death our everlasting portion, hope, and joy. When our life on earth is ended, graciously wilt thou receive us to that higher service where, without weariness or failure, we may live to thy glory for ever. O thou who dost never slumber nor sleep, who art able to do for us more abundantly than we can ask or think, to thee be honor and glory world without end. Amen.

DECEMBER 12.

I HAVE learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. . . . I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content.

SOME murmur when their sky is clear
And wholly bright to view,
If one small speck of cloud appear
In the great heaven of blue.
And some with thankful love are filled
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy gild
The darkness of their night.

In palaces are hearts that ask,
In discontent and pride,
Why life is such a dreary task,
And all good things denied;
And hearts in poorest huts admire
How love has in their aid
(Love that not ever seems to tire)
Such rich provision made.

FATHER, we thank thee, for daily bread, for raiment, for the home that shelters us from summer's heat and winter's storm and cold. We bless thee for the dear friends whom we love, and who love us; for those present now joining their prayer with us, and for the absent ones far from the touch of our hand or the hearing of our voice. We thank thee for those blessed relationships that set the solitary in families, and enrich and beautify the world with all the tender ties which join husband and wife, and parent and child, and brother and sister, and join many children of thine into one great family of love. May the love of God fill all souls, and make all thy children dwell as brethren together. Amen.

DECEMBER 13.

THE disciple is not above his master ; but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

AMONG the pitfalls in our way,
The best of us walk blindly ;
O man, be wary ! watch and pray,
And judge your brother kindly.

Help back his feet if they have slid,
Nor count him still your debtor ;
Perhaps the very wrong he did
Has made yourself the better.

IN the time of terror and of dread, and in all time of sadness, have pity, O Lord, on those who confess thy name. Have thou a care of those who put their trust in thy love for men, and forgive their sins. Let thy tenderness be stirred up for those who call upon thee: nor let thy grace fail us. Let not the light of our lamps be put out. Let not thy justice be against us. Show the aid of thy grace against our weakness. Pour out the flood of thy pity on our ungodliness, and wash away our sins, and purge us from whatever is hateful. Give us true and uncorrupt faith, a pure and tranquil life, high and holy gifts, freedom from severe temptations, a departure with due preparation, a good end, with all blessing and the delight of an inheritance with the saints, and confidence when we stand before thy throne, whose mercy endureth for ever. - Amen.

DECEMBER 14.

BUT God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-
with he loved us, even when we were dead in sins,
hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are
saved); and hath raised us up together, and made us sit
together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the
ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his
grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus.
For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of
yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any
man should boast.

ALL things that are on earth shall wholly pass away,
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye.
The forms of men shall be as they had never been;
The blasted groves shall lose their fresh and tender green;
The birds of the thicket shall end their pleasant song,
And the nightingale shall cease to chant the evening long.

And realms shall be dissolved, and empires be no more;
And they shall bow to death, who ruled from shore to shore;
And the great globe itself, so the holy writings tell,
With the rolling firmament, where the starry armies dwell,
Shall melt with fervent heat; they shall all pass away;
Except the love of God, which shall live and last for aye.

ALmighty Father, whose gifts to us on earth are a
foreshadowing of thy heavenly favor; we would
bring to thee the offering of glad and grateful hearts for
thy past bounties to us, which are more than we can number,
greater than we can know. For the wonderful uses, and
the no less wonderful beauties, of the outward world; for
the example of the wise and good; for the friendship of
those who are dear to us; for the revelation of thy character
and will by Jesus Christ; for the helps of thy Spirit and
the promises of the gospel; for all the mercies of thy
providence, we give thee humble and heartfelt thanks.
Oh, may we show our grateful sense of thy loving-kindness
by our lives, as well as express it with our lips; and may
it be our frequent employment now, as we trust it will be
hereafter, to utter the memory of thy great goodness and
to sing of thy praise. Amen.

DECEMBER 15.

AND he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms ; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room ; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him ; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place ; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room ; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher : then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased ; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

THY home is with the humble, Lord !
The simplest are the best ;
Thy lodging is in child-like hearts ;
Thou makest there thy rest.

Dear Comforter ! eternal Love !
If thou wilt stay with me,
Of lowly thoughts and simple ways
I'll build a house for thee.

Who made this beating heart of mine,
But thou, my heavenly guest ?
Let no one have it, then, but thee,
And let it be thy rest.

OTHOU who hearest prayer, we thank thee for thy constant goodness : for life and health and all our enjoyments. We thank thee for this day and its privileges. Father, forgive our sins ; teach us what is right ; help us faithfully to do our whole duty. O thou who knowest our inmost thoughts, aid us to keep them pure. May we fear nothing so much as doing wrong. May we never forget that we are not to perish in the dust. May the hopes of the better life cheer us and make us strong. Daily growing better, may we at last find entrance to the mansions prepared for them that love thee. Amen.

DECEMBER 16.

AND Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone : but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

He that loveth his life shall lose it ; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

If any man serve me, let him follow me ; and where I am, there shall also my servant be : if any man serve me him will my Father honor.

I KNOW not the way I am going,
But well do I know my Guide ;
With a childlike trust I give my hand
To the mighty Friend by my side.
The only thing that I say to him,
As he takes it, is "Hold it fast ;"
Suffer me not to lose my way,
But bring me home at last.

As when some helpless wanderer,
Alone in an unknown land,
Tells the guide his destined place of rest,
And leaves all else in his hand ; —
'Tis home, 'tis home, that we wish to reach ;
He who guides us may choose the way :
Little we heed the paths that we take,
If *nearer* home each day.

OUR Father in heaven, we gratefully acknowledge thy goodness to us this day : for continuing our life ; for shielding us from danger and harm ; for supplying our daily bread and all things needful for body and soul. Help us to set our affections on things above. Keep ever in our minds a lively sense of responsibility to thee. May our best resolutions be faithfully kept, and our best impressions not pass away fruitless. May we reform the errors we confess ; and may our devout aspirations guard us against temptation and keep us pure and undefiled. May we constantly live as becometh thy children. Let it be our study at home and abroad, by day and by night, to love and fear and obey thee as we ought, and to do those things which are well-pleasing in thy sight. Amen.

DECEMBER 17.

EYE hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit : for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God ; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

OH, yet we trust that somehow good
Will be the final goal of ill,
To pangs of nature, sins of will,
Defects of doubt, and taints of blood :

That nothing walks with aimless feet ;
That not one life shall be destroyed,
Or cast as rubbish to the void,
When God hath made the pile complete ;

That not a worm is cloven in vain ;
That not a moth with vain desire
Is shrivelled in a fruitless fire,
Or but subserves another's gain.

Behold ! we know not any thing ;
I can but trust that good shall fall,
At last, — far off, — at last to all,
And every winter change to spring.

THOU who art more ready to hear than we are to pray: fill us, we entreat thee, with a lively faith. Lord, we believe: help thou our unbelief. May we walk by faith. Open our eyes to see and know thee as the Author of all that is great and good. May the outward shows of things not betray us into forgetfulness of that unseen world whose treasures alone endure. Dispel the clouds of selfishness and sin that hide thee from us. Give that purity of heart that may see thee now and ever near us, our Father and best friend for ever. Let us walk with thee every day and moment of life, and may faith sustain us till death shall open to us the glorious visions of eternity. Amen.

DECEMBER 18.

I WILL praise thee with my whole heart : before the gods
will I sing praise unto thee.

Though the Lord is high, yet hath he respect unto the
lowly : but the proud he knoweth afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive
me, and thy right hand shall save me.

The Lord will be sufficient for me : thy mercy, O Lord,
endureth for ever : forsake not the work of thine own
hands.

My heart is resting, O my God,
I will give thanks and sing ;
My heart is at the secret source
Of every precious thing.

Mine be the reverent, listening love
That waits all day on thee ;
The service of a watchful heart
Which no one else can see ;

The faith that in a hidden way
No other eye may know,
Finds all its daily work prepared,
And loves to have it so.

O THOU who givest us richly all things to enjoy :
teach us, we pray thee, to imitate thine own bound-
less beneficence. Freely as we have received, so freely
may we give. We would not selfishly appropriate thy
bounty, but would know the divine joy of ministering to
others' needs. Quicken within us the fountains of gene-
rosity. Warm our sympathies toward the sufferer of every
class and clime ; let no unbrotherly prejudice ever close
our hearts or homes against any child of thine. May our
faith in Jesus be not in name only, an empty profession,
but in deed and truth ; leading us to honor him in the
persons of the sick, the imprisoned, the unfortunate, his
brethren and ours. Following in the footsteps of his self-
denial and brotherly service, may we become the almoners
of thy bounty and the saviors of souls. So may thy gospel
fill and rule all hearts and lives. Amen.

DECEMBER 19.

REJOICE in the Lord always : and again I say, Re-
joice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing ; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report ; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

WHEN thou hast thanked thy God for every blessing sent,
What time will then remain for murmurs and lament ?

Envy detects the spots in the clear orb of light,
And love the little stars in the gloomiest, saddest night.

When God afflicts thee, think he hews a rugged stone,
Which must be shaped, or else aside as useless thrown.

Why win we not at once what we in prayer require ?
That we may learn great things as greatly to desire.

The tasks, the joys, of earth the same in heaven will be :
Only the little brook has widened to the sea.

When will the din of earth grate harshly on our ears ?
When we have once heard plain the music of the spheres.

GIVE us this day, O our Father, we pray thee, pure thoughts and single aims. Give us love towards thee, and charity towards our neighbor. From all the changes of life, from its joys and sorrows, may our immortal souls gather new strength. And when our last hour shall come, and we enter the dark valley, and bid farewell to this mortal scene, thou wilt be our rock and our refuge. Thy rod and thy staff will comfort us. We shall fall asleep in thine everlasting arms, and awake amidst the joys of thy presence. And to thee, merciful Father, we will ascribe the grace and the glory for ever. Amen.

DECEMBER 20.

WALK in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh : and these are contrary the one to the other ; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance : against such there is no law.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

WE will not weep ; for God is standing by us,

And tears will blind us to the blessed sight :

We will not doubt ; if darkness still doth try us,

Our souls have promise of serenest light.

We will not faint : if heavy burdens bind us,

They press no harder than our souls can bear :

The thorniest way is lying still behind us ;

We shall be braver for the past despair.

Oh ! not in doubt shall be our journey's ending :

Sin with its fears shall leave us at the last :

All its best hopes in glad fulfilment blending,

Life shall be with us when the Death is past.

Help us, O Father ! — when the world is pressing

On our frail hearts, that faint without their friend,

Help us, O Father ! let thy constant blessing

Strengthen our weakness, till the joyful end.

TAKE us, O Father, into thy holy keeping. Make us in body and soul altogether thine. Sanctify us in all the relations of life. Strengthen and purify the bonds of love that bind us together. May the benefits we receive at thy hand warm our gratitude, and move us to more ready and entire obedience. May all the sorrows, privations, and pains which thy wise love may send us be endured with unfailling trust, and improved to our eternal peace. Watch over us through the dangers alike of the day and the night. And may the light of each new day find us more inclined to love thee and more resolved to serve thee faithfully and for ever. Amen.

DECEMBER 21.

AND he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow. And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

LOWLY and solemn be
Thy children's cry to thee,
Father divine!

A hymn of suppliant breath,
Owning that life and death
Alike are thine.

O Father, in that hour
When earth all helping power
Shall disavow;
When spear and shield and crown
In faintness are cast down,
Sustain us thou!

By him who bowed to take
The death-cup for our sake,
The thorn, the rod;
From whom the last dismay
Was not to pass away,
Aid us, O God!

O GOD, whose blessed Son, obedient to thy law, underwent hunger and thirst and pain in doing thy will, and fulfilling all righteousness: give us grace in all patience and temperance so to bear and forbear that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may, in all righteousness, purity, and soberness, ever obey thy holy guidance and control, who art our Father and our King, world without end. Amen.

DECEMBER 22.

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the people.

Remember his marvellous works that he hath done ; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth ; when our fathers were but few in number ; yea, very few, and strangers in the land.

When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people ; he suffered no man to do them wrong ; yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes : saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

GONE are those great and good
Who here in peril stood
And raised their hymn.
Peace to the reverend dead ;
The light that on their head
The passing years have shed,
Shall ne'er grow dim.

Ye temples that to God
Rise where our fathers trod,
Guard well your trust, —
The faith that dared the sea,
The truth that made them free,
Their cherished purity,
Their garnered dust.

Thou high and holy One,
Whose care for sire and son
All nature fills,
While day shall break and close,
While night her crescent shows,
Oh, let thy light repose
On these our hills !

ETERNAL God, in whom the spirits of just men do rest in peace from their labors : we thank thee for all those who have departed this life in thy fear and love, and whose works do follow them beyond the grave. Blessed be thy mercy and eternal goodness, O God ; and blessed be the memory of all thy saints in our hearts. Teach us who now dwell upon earth to practise their doctrine, to imitate their lives, and to follow their example as they have followed Christ and thee. Amen.

DECEMBER 23.

COMFORT ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low : and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain : and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together : for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain : for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them ; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

We wait in faith, in prayer we wait,
Until the happy hour
When God shall ope the morning gate,
By his almighty power.
We wait in faith, and turn our face
To where the daylight springs ;
Till he shall come earth's gloom to chase,
With healing on his wings.

And even now, amid the gray,
The east is brightening fast,
And kindling to that perfect day
Which never shall be past.
We wait in faith, we wait in prayer,
Till that blest day shall shine,
When earth shall fruits of Eden bear,
And all, O God, be thine !

OMNIPOTENT God, our heavenly Father, from whom every good and perfect gift proceedeth : we, thine unworthy servants, deeply sensible of thy manifold and great mercies, would bring to thee our united offering of praise and thanksgiving, as for innumerable other proofs of thy loving-kindness, so especially for that wonderful event which laid the foundation of all our Christian hopes. Grant that we may with such true joy celebrate the happy festival of Christmas, as to be heartily disposed to strive after that heavenly righteousness which thou hast set before us in the life and gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECEMBER 24.

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel ; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant ; that he would grant unto us, that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life. And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways ; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God ; whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into light.

Now gird your patient loins again,
Your wasting torches trim !
The chief of all the sons of men,
Shall we not welcome him ?
Fill all his courts with sacred songs,
And from the temple wall
Wave garlands o'er the joyful throngs
That crowd his festival !

And still more freshly in the mind
Store up the hopes sublime
Which then were born for all mankind,
So blessed was the time ;
And, underneath these hallowed eaves,
A Saviour will be born
In every heart that him receives,
On his triumphal morn.

O GOD, who makest us to rejoice in the yearly celebration of the festival of Christmas : grant that we who thankfully receive thy best-beloved Son may through him become thy faithful children, and be admitted into thy kingdom of light and glory for ever and ever. Grant, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord God, that, enlightened by the memory of thy wonderful Providence in the birth of Jesus Christ, our eyes may be evermore fixed on thy goodness ; which still graciously worketh towards the accomplishment of thy promise, to call at length all the earth to a true knowledge of thee and thy glorified Son. Amen.

DECEMBER 25.

BEHOLD, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will to men.

HARK! the glad sound, — the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a home,
And every voice a song.
He comes from thickest films of vice,
To clear the mental ray;
And on the eyeballs of the blind
To pour celestial day.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
Enrich the humble poor.
Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace!
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

GLORY in the highest heavens be to thee, O God, who hast proclaimed peace on earth and good-will to men. Thanks for the glad tidings of great joy brought by Jesus Christ our Lord. We hail the morning that commemorates his birth. We adore thy providence in the coming of this messenger from heaven. Holy is the truth he taught, immortal the hope he inspires. Break our slumbers, and let the light of Christ search our souls and scatter our darkness. May all people be filled with his spirit of liberty, and be ruled by his law of love. Let all superstition and wrong disappear before that religion which came down from heaven, bringing good gifts to men. May thy grace abound and thy saving truth reign over all nations and in all hearts; and to thee be praise everlasting. Amen.

DECEMBER 26.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word ; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before all people : a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people, Israel.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom ; and the grace of God was upon him.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me ? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business ?

And Jesus increased in stature, and in favor with God and man.

THY servants in the temple watched
The dawning of the day,
Impatient with its earliest beams
Their holy vows to pay ;
And chosen saints far off beheld
That great and glorious morn,
When the glad day-spring from on high
Auspiciously should dawn.

On us the Son of Righteousness
Its brightest beams hath poured ;
With grateful hearts and holy zeal,
Lord, be thy love adored ;
And let us look with joyful hope
To that more glorious day,
Before whose brightness sin and death,
And grief, shall flee away.

O GOD, who didst send thy word to speak in the prophets and live in thy Son, and appoint thy church to be witness of divine things in all the world : revive the purity and deepen the power of its testimony ; and, through the din of earthly interests and the storm of human passions, let it make the still small voice of thy Spirit inly felt. Nearer and nearer may thy kingdom come from age to age ; meeting the face of the young as a rising dawn, and brightening the song of the old, " Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace. " Already let its light abash our guilty negligence, and touch with hope each secret sorrow of the earth. By the cleansing Spirit of thy Son, make this world a fitting fore-court to that sanctuary not made with hands, where our life is hid with Christ in God. Amen.

DECEMBER 27.

IT came to pass that, Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened.

And a voice came from heaven which said, Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased.

And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

And I saw a new heaven, and a new earth: for the former things have passed away.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

LORD our God, source of all light and truth, who didst send thy Son Jesus Christ into the world, that the world through him might be saved: grant, we beseech thee, that the light of his doctrine and life may shine into our hearts, and dispel our darkness, and direct our steps, and lead us at last to the unspeakable glories and felicities of thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

DECEMBER 28.

LORD, thou hast been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Thou turnest man to destruction, and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Thou carriest him away as with a flood : he is as a dream ; he is like grass which groweth up in the morning.

In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up ; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

OUR years are like the shadows
O'er sunny hills that fly,
Or grasses in the meadows,
That blossom but to die ;
A sleep, a dream, a story,
By strangers quickly told,
An unremaining glory
Of things that soon are old.

O Thou, who canst not slumber,
Whose light grows never pale,
Teach us aright to number
Our years before they fail,
On us thy mercy lighten,
On us thy goodness rest,
And let thy Spirit brighten
The hearts thyself hath blessed.

O LORD God, Fountain of comfort and help, of life and peace, of plenty and pardon, who fillest heaven with thy glory and earth with thy goodness : we give thee the most humble and earnest returns of a glad and thankful heart for the blessings of nature and the blessings of grace, for the support of every minute and the gifts of every day. What are we, O Lord, and what is our fathers' house, that the great God of men and angels should multiply upon us the proofs of his loving-kindness ? Praised be the Lord daily, even the Lord that helpeth us and poureth his blessings upon us. Blessed be the name of his Majesty for ever, and let all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen.

DECEMBER 29.

THE days of our years are threescore years and ten ;
and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years,
yet is their pride weariness and sorrow ; for it swiftly van-
isheth, and we fly away.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our
hearts unto wisdom.

O, satisfy us early with thy mercy ; that we may rejoice
and be glad all our days.

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory un-
to their children.

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us ; and
establish thou the work of our hands upon us ; yea, the
work of our hands establish thou it.

GOD of the changing year, whose arm of power
In safety leads through danger's darkest hour, —
Here in thy presence bow thy children down,
To bless thy mercy, and thy might to own.

Thine are the beams that cheer us on our way,
And pour around the gladdening light of day ;
Thine is the night, and the fair orbs that shine
To cheer its hours of darkness, — all are thine.

If round our path the thorns of sorrow grew,
'And mortal friends were faithless, thou wast true ;
Did sickness shake the frame, or anguish tear
The wounded spirit, thou wast present there.

Oh, lend thine ear, and lift our voice to thee :
Where'er we dwell, still let thy mercy be ;
From year to year, still nearer to thy shrine
Draw our frail hearts, and make them wholly thine !

O GOD, eternal Creator of all things, Lord of heaven
and earth. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father
of mercies, and God of all comfort ; who hast made us in
thine own image, created us anew by thy beloved Son, and
adopted us as thy children ; who hast promised thy Holy
Spirit to those that seek it, and prepared for us an eternal
kingdom : with the host of heaven, and with thy faithful
servants on earth, we would cry, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God
Almighty, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Amen.

DECEMBER 30.

AND, behold, I come quickly ; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

O TIME ! ne'er resteth thy swift wing ;
Thy minutes make no stay ;
Yet what vast treasure do they bring,
What treasure bear away !
O richly laden hours, ye fly ;
Yet ye lay down your load ;
O minutes freighted awfully !
Your freight is all bestowed.

Ye bring the world's consuming care ;
Ye bring the tempter's wile ;
Ye bring the glorious strife of prayer ;
Ye bring the Father's smile.
Yes, Lord, our days may be divine ;
Our hours may golden be ;
The brightness of their light may shine
Through all eternity.

We mourn not, hours, the wings ye take,
If your blest dower be given ;
Fly on, bright minutes, if ye make
Our souls more meet for heaven !
Yes, parted years, still sweetly breathe !
Still blessedly appear !
And glory and delight bequeath
To the eternal year !

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy children who call upon thee ; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Almighty and ever-living God, grant us, we beseech thee, a constant renewal of thy Holy Spirit and of thy manifold gifts, till we grow to the full measure of our perfection in Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECEMBER 31.

WE spend our years as a tale that is told.
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

O GOD! to thee our hearts would pay
Their gratitude sincere,
Whose love hath kept us, night and day,
Throughout another year.
Of every breath, and every power,
Thou wast the gracious source;
From thee came every happy hour
Which smiled along its course.

And if sometimes across our path
A cloud its shadows threw,
Thou didst not waft it there in wrath,
But loving-kindness true.
For joy and grief alike we pay
Our thanks to thee above;
And only pray to grow each day
More worthy of thy love.

O THOU in whose sight a thousand years are but as a day: we would raise our thoughts to the eternity in which thou dwellest, and to those things which know no change but from glory to glory.

We mourn that the closing year, with its broken vows and lost opportunities, has so much to fill us with shame. May we confess our sins with earnest desire to forsake them all for ever. The departing year has carried hence the hopes and treasures of many hearts. Dear friends have disappeared, whose coming steps we shall hear no more. Bring home to us a sense of our mortality. Made wiser by the solemn lessons of the past, may we henceforth walk more worthily of our high vocation as children of God. Guide us through the perils of all coming time. And may we turn to thee as our Father and our best Friend for ever. Amen.

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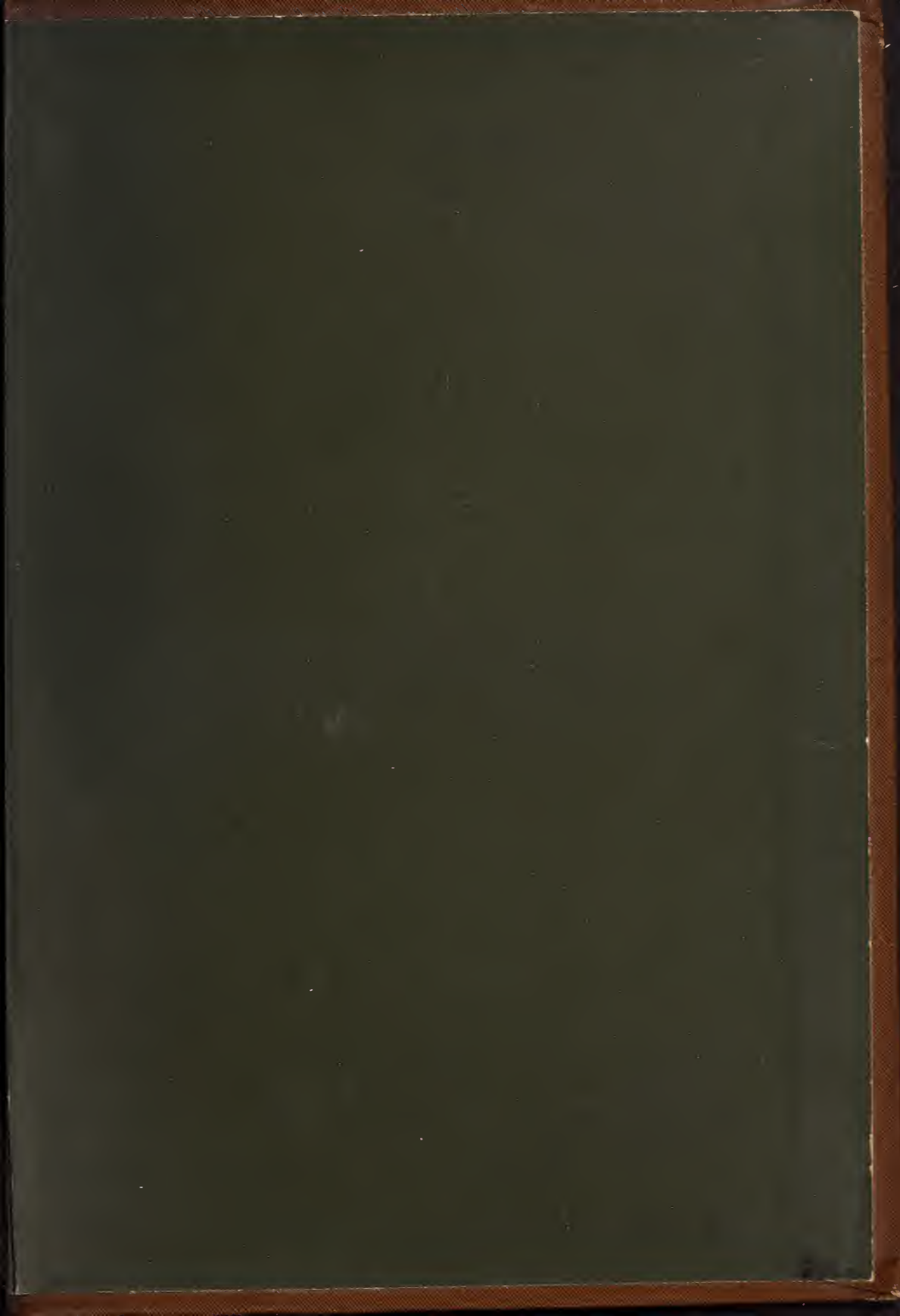


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